

**COMMUNICATIONS LAW #291**  
**Tues./Thurs. 10:30 – 12:00; Room 1401**  
**Spring 2012**

- Instructor:** Christine Chabot. You may reach me at [cchabot@luc.edu](mailto:cchabot@luc.edu) or 734.657.9567 (cell).
- Office Hours:** By appointment. Please call or e-mail me to schedule a meeting. I'm also happy to answer your questions by phone or e-mail.
- Required Text:** Robinson & Nachbar, Communications Regulation (2008). I will also post supplementary materials on TWEN.
- Grades:** Your grade will be based primarily on a final examination held on Tuesday, May 8, at 9:00 a.m. It will be an open-book essay exam. I also reserve the right to raise or lower your grade based on attendance and class participation.
- Attendance Policy:** Students are required to attend class punctually and regularly. You may take up to four unexcused absences. Students with inadequate attendance may have their grades lowered or be precluded from taking the final exam.

**Schedule of Assignments:<sup>1</sup>**

**I. INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATIONS LAW**  
**Class 1: 1-33**

**MASS MEDIA**

- II. REGULATING MEDIA CONTENT**
- A. First Amendment Foundations**  
**Class 2: 100-107**
  - B. Affirmative Content Regulation**  
**Class 2: 107-118**  
**Class 3: 118-43**  
**Class 4: 143-61**
  - C. Offensive Broadcast Content**  
**Class 4: 161-75**  
**Class 5: 175-89; Supplement for p.189**  
**Class 6: 189-98; skim 198-206**

- III. SPECTRUM**
- A. Introduction**  
**Class 6: 34-38**
  - B. Allocations and Assignments**  
**Class 7: 38-62**
  - C. Reforming Spectrum Policy**  
**Class 8: 62-98 (read selectively as instructed in class)**

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<sup>1</sup> Page numbers standing alone refer to Robinson & Nachbar, Communications Regulation (2008).

- IV. MEDIA STRUCTURE**
  - A. Broadcast Ownership**  
Class 9: 207-48
  - B. Vertical Integration in Broadcasting**  
Class 10: 248-63
  - C. Cable Ownership and Vertical Integration**  
Class 10: 263-87

- V. INTER-MEDIA COMPETITION**
  - A. Introduction to Cable Regulation**  
Class 11: 303-12
  - B. Limits on Cable Access to Broadcast Programming**  
Class 11: 312-31  
Class 12: 331-65
  - C. Fitting Satellite into the Cable/Broadcast Paradigm**  
Class 13: 365-85
  - D. Inter-Media Mergers**  
Class 14: Supplement for p.385

- VI. MVPD CONSUMER REGULATION**
  - A. Introduction**  
Class 14: 386-90
  - B. Local Rate Regulation**  
Class 15: 390-95
  - C. Cable Franchising and the Growth of Competition**  
Class 15: 395-418
  - D. Cable à la Carte**  
Class 15: 418-31

## **TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

- VII. FOUNDATIONS OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATION**
  - A. Intro to Telecommunications and the Rise and Fall of the Bell System Monopoly**  
Class 16: 434-69
  - B. The Breakup**  
Class 17: 469-80
  - C. Rate Regulation**  
Class 17: 480-99 (optional)
- VIII. REMAKING TELECOMMUNICATIONS MARKETS: THE 1996 ACT**
  - A. Introduction; Long Distance; Access Charges**  
Class 18: 500-29
  - B. Universal Service**  
Class 19: 529-56; Supplement for p.556
  - C. Unbundled Network Elements**  
Class 20: 556-98
  - D. Regulatory Forbearance as the Method for Cessation of the 1996 Act Requirements**  
Class 21: 598-613

**E. Antitrust Under the 1996 Act**  
**Class 21: 613-22**

**IX. MOBILE WIRELESS**  
**Class 22: 623-46**

**X. ADVANCED SERVICES**

**A. Introduction**  
**Class 23: 647-61**

**B. Network Neutrality**  
**Class 23: 686-706**

**Class 24: Supplement for section B.2.a – The Open Internet Report and Order (at p.706)**

**Class 25: Supplement for section B.2.b**

**C. Internet Telecommunications**

**Class 25-26: skim 717-30; 730-35; skim 735-54**

**D. Internet Mass Media**

**Class 27: 760-93**

**THE FUTURE?**

**XI. THE VIEW AHEAD**  
**Class 28: 796-829**