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**Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution of Higher Education  
PEOPLES' FRIENDSHIP UNIVERSITY OF RUSSIA  
RUDN University**

**Faculty of Philology**

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educational division (faculty/institute/academy) as higher education programme developer

**COURSE SYLLABUS**

Mass media legal regulations

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course title

**Recommended by the Didactic Council for the Education Field of:**

42.04.02 Journalism

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field of studies / speciality code and title

**The course instruction is implemented within the professional education programme of higher education:**

Global and Digital Media

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higher education programme profile/specialisation title

**2023**

## 1. OBJECTIVE OF THE DISCIPLINE

The main goal of this course is to provide students with an overview of the main areas of research in media regulation and to teach them to identify the criteria for identifying problems related to media regulation and practice.

The main objectives are:

- to show the main sources of media law and the basic principles of media regulation in Russia and abroad;
- to acquaint students with the legal foundations of editorial activity and the scope of the rights and responsibilities of the subjects of mass information relations;
- to introduce the basics of copyright and the general requirements for content in the media;
- to teach how to apply the sources of mass information law in professional activities and carry out professional activities in accordance with these norms of law;
- to introduce case law and give experience in identifying typical violations that arise in the course of professional editorial activity;
- to develop the skill of reading and analyzing the main sources of mass information law.

## 2. REQUIREMENTS TO STUDENTS ON FINISHING THE COURSE

Students are expected to master the following competencies:

*Table 2.1. The list of competencies formed in the mastering of the discipline (the results of the discipline)*

Code	Competence	Indicators of competence achievement (within the discipline)
GPC-2	Able to analyze the main trends in the development of public and state institutions for their diverse coverage in created media texts and/or media products, and/or communication products	GPC-2.1 Identifies cause-and-effect relationships in the problems of interaction between public and state institutions
		GPC-2.2 Observes the principle of impartiality and balance of interests in the journalistic texts and (or) products created when covering the activities of public and state institutions
GPC-5	Able to make professional decisions to analyze current trends in the development of media and communication systems in the region, country and world, based on the political and economic mechanisms of their functioning, legal and ethical standards of regulation	GPC-5.1 Identifies the peculiarities of political, regional, national and global media and communication systems development, based on political and economic mechanisms of their functioning, legal and ethical norms regulating the development of different media and communication systems at the global, national and regional levels
		GPC-5.2 Models individual and collective professional journalistic actions depending on the conditions of a particular media communication system

Code	Competence	Indicators of competence achievement (within the discipline)
GPC-7	Able to assess and predict the possible effects in the media sphere, following the principles of social responsibility	GPC-7.1 Knows the laws of social responsibility of forming the effects and consequences of professional activity, the concepts of its social responsibility

### 3. THE DISCIPLINE (MODULE) IN THE STRUCTURE OF EP HE

The discipline “Mass media legal regulations” belongs to the Variative Module of Block 1 of the curriculum. Table 1 shows preceding and subsequent subjects aimed at forming competence discipline in accordance with the matrix of competencies.

*Table 3.1. The list of components of the EP HE, contributing to the achievement of the planned results of the discipline*

Code	Name of competence	Previous discipline	Subsequent disciplines
GPC-2	Able to analyze the main trends in the development of public and state institutions for their diverse coverage in created media texts and/or media products, and/or communication products	Media economics / Медиаэкономика Modern media systems / Современные медиасистемы Modern media text / Современный медиатекст	Research practice / Научно-исследовательская практика
GPC-5	Able to make professional decisions to analyze current trends in the development of media and communication systems in the region, country and world, based on the political and economic mechanisms of their functioning, legal and ethical standards of regulation	Modern media systems / Современные медиасистемы Modern mass communication theories / Современные теории массовой коммуникации	Research practice / Научно-исследовательская практика
GPC-7	Able to assess and predict the possible effects in the media sphere, following the principles of social responsibility	Modern media text / Современный медиатекст PR and media relations / PR и медиарелейшенз	Research practice / Научно-исследовательская практика

### 4. THE SCOPE OF THE DISCIPLINE AND TYPES OF ACTIVITIES

The overall workload of the discipline is **3** credits.

*Table 4.1. Types of educational work by periods of study of the EP HE for the full-time mode of study*

Type of activity	TOTAL, ac. hours	Semester (s)			
		1	2	3	4
<i>Classroom activities, ac. hours</i>	34			34	

Type of activity	TOTAL, ac. hours	Semester (s)			
		1	2	3	4
Including:					
Lectures	17			17	
Laboratory activities					
<i>Practical lessons/Seminars</i>	17			17	
<i>Independent work, ac. hours</i>	50			50	
<i>Control, ac. hours</i>	24			24	
<b>Overall workload</b>	ac. hours	108		108	
	credits	3		3	

## 5. CONTENT OF THE DISCIPLINE

*Table 5.1 Content of the discipline (module) by type of activity*

Name of the Unit	Content of the Units (topics)	Type of activity
<b>Mass Media Legal Regulation: Main Terms and Concepts, Their Origins and Evolution</b>	Topic 1. Basic terms of the course are: cross-ownership, defamation, libel, slander, refutation, false light, whistleblower, copyright infringement, neighboring rights, war correspondent etc. Their definition, usage of the terms. Topic 2. Civil law and case law: different approaches towards regulating the media.	Lectures, Seminars, Individual work
<b>Mass Media Legal Regulation and Its Historical Development</b>	Topic 3. Roman law as a basic origin of modern legal systems. Topic 4. Papal Bulls; evolution of censorship; prepublication control in Europe and its historical development. Topic 5. The first documents that guaranteed freedom of speech. Topic 6. The birth of international legislation in the field of Mass Media.	Lectures, Seminars, Individual work
<b>International Law and Mass Media Legal Regulation</b>	Topic 7. Major international organizations and conventions, treaties, declarations that guarantee the freedom of speech and protection of journalists' rights. Topic 8. Basic international conventions and agreements protecting intellectual property rights. Topic 9. International Humanitarian Law and the rights of journalists during armed conflicts.	Lectures, Seminars, Individual work
<b>Mass Media Legal Regulation in the USA</b>	Topic 10. Constitutional protection of the freedom of speech. Landmark cases: «New York Times Co. v. Sullivan» (actual malice standard), «Hustler Magazine Inc. v. Falwell» (prohibition of awarding damages for emotional distress). Topic 11. Regulation of broadcasting and the FCC. Topic 12. The Espionage Act and prosecution of whistleblowers. Topic 13. Fighting digital piracy, Internet regulation and the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. Topic 14. Anti-cross-ownership and anti-trust legislation.	Lectures, Seminars, Individual work

Name of the Unit	Content of the Units (topics)	Type of activity
<b>Mass Media Legal Regulation in the UK</b>	<p>Topic 15. Common law system, unwritten constitution, no special legislation.</p> <p>Topic 16. BBC and its legal status.</p> <p>Topic 17. Libel tourism and modernization of the British legislation.</p> <p>Topic 18. The Copyright, Designs and Patents Act and the Copyright tribunal.</p>	Lectures, Seminars, Individual work
<b>Mass Media Legal Regulation in Europe</b>	<p>Topic 19. The Basic Law for the Federal Republic of Germany; the rights and liability of journalists.</p> <p>Topic 20. Regulations limiting freedom of speech in The Penal Code (hate speech, blasphemy, dissemination of means of propaganda of unconstitutional organizations).</p> <p>Topic 21. Regulation of broadcasting and the Internet.</p> <p>Topic 22. Defamation laws in Germany: the same procedure for defamation cases and violation of privacy).</p> <p>Topic 23. the Constitution of France,1958: the Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen (1789) is used as a preamble to the constitution.</p> <p>Topic 24. The Supreme Audiovisual Council Of France</p> <p>Topic 25. The Toubon Law and its influence on Mass Media.</p> <p>Topic 26. Defamation Law and Privacy Law.</p>	Lectures, Seminars, Individual work
<b>Mass Media Legal Regulation in Russia</b>	<p>Topic 27. The 1991 Law «On mass media».</p> <p>Topic 28. The Penal Code of the Russian Federation (defamation and other crimes). The Russian Civil Code (the 4th part protects copyright and neighbouring rights).</p> <p>Topic 29. Controversial legislation and free speech rights: Law on Counteracting the Extremist Activity, Federal Law №187 and others.</p> <p>Topic 30. Internet regulation.</p>	Lectures, Seminars, Individual work

## 6. MATERIAL AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT OF THE DISCIPLINE

The discipline is implemented using e-learning and distance learning technologies.

*Table 6.1. Material and technical support of the discipline*

Type of classroom	Classroom equipment	Specialized educational/laboratory equipment, software and materials for the mastering of the discipline (if necessary)
Class	Computers, multimedia board and whiteboard, desks, chairs	Computer and projector

\* The classroom for students' independent work ***MUST be indicated!***

## 7. EDUCATIONAL AND METHODOLOGICAL AND INFORMATIONAL SUPPORT OF THE DISCIPLINE

### *Main readings*

1. Tursunova S.B. Constitutional and legal regulation of mass media and study of public opinion // Вопросы науки и образования. 2019. №23 (71). URL: <https://cyberleninka.ru/article/n/constitutional-and-legal-regulation-of-mass-media-and-study-of-public-opinion>
2. Donders K. Public service media and policy in Europe. – Springer, 2011.
3. Ibarra K. A., Nowak E., Kuhn R. (ed.). Public service media in Europe: A comparative approach. – Routledge, 2015.
4. Pickard V. Democracy without journalism?: Confronting the misinformation society. – Oxford University Press, 2019.
5. Hallin D. C., Mancini P. Comparing media systems: Three models of media and politics. – Cambridge university press, 2004.
6. Shirokanova A., Silyutina O. Internet regulation: A text-based approach to media coverage //International Conference on Digital Transformation and Global Society. – Springer, Cham, 2018. – C. 181-194.
7. Vartanova E. Media pluralism in Russia: In need of policy making //Media Pluralism and Diversity. – Palgrave Macmillan, London, 2015. – C. 193-210.
8. Feintuck M. Media regulation, public interest and the law. – Edinburgh University Press, 2006.
9. Lunt P., Livingstone S. Media regulation: Governance and the interests of citizens and consumers. – Sage, 2011.
10. Puppis M. Media governance: A new concept for the analysis of media policy and regulation //Communication, Culture & Critique. – 2010. – T. 3. – №. 2. – C. 134-149.
11. Harcourt A. The European Union and the regulation of media markets. – Manchester University Press, 2005.

### *Other recommended readings*

1. Sjøvaag H. The principles of regulation and the assumption of media effects //Journal of Media Business Studies. – 2014. – T. 11. – №. 1. – C. 5-20.
2. de la Rasilla I. A very short history of international law journals (1869–2018) //European Journal of International Law. – 2018. – T. 29. – №. 1. – C. 137-168.
3. Puppis M., d'Haenens L. Comparing media policy and regulation //The Handbook of Comparative Communication Research. – Routledge, 2013. – C. 243-255.

### *Web-sites and online resources*

- Council of Europe: [Recommendation Rec \(2000\) 23 of the Committee of Ministers to member states on the independence and functions of regulatory authorities for the broadcasting sector adopted on 20 December 2000](#)
- Council of Europe: [Recommendation CM/Rec\(2017\)xx of the Committee of Ministers to member states on media pluralism and transparency of media ownership](#)
- Organisation of American States: [Freedom of Expression Standards for Free and Inclusive Broadcasting](#) (2010)
- African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights: [Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information in Africa](#) (2019)
- Worldwide professional organization in the field of media and communication research - <http://www.epra.org/>

1. Databases and search systems:
  - web search engine google.com

- news aggregation website drudgereport.com

*Teaching materials for students' independent work while mastering the discipline/module\*:*

1. A course of lectures on the discipline.
2. Practical assignments and their brief contents;
3. Questions for self-check, test assignments.

\* - all educational and methodical materials for students' independent work are published in accordance with the current order on the page of the discipline in TUIS!

## **8. GRADING MATERIALS AND GRADING-RATING SYSTEM FOR ASSESSING THE LEVEL OF COMPETENCE FORMED IN THE DISCIPLINE**

The grading materials and grading-rating system\* for assessing the level of competence (part of competences) for the discipline are presented in the Appendix to this Working program of the discipline.

\* - are formed on the basis of the requirements of the corresponding local normative act of RUDN University.

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