

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
Undergraduate Course Outline 20

Philosophy 2730G: Media Ethics

Winter Term 201

Mon 1:30- 2:30, Wed 1:30- 3:30

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Instructor: Dean Proessel

Office Hours: TBA

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DESCRIPTION

This course is an introduction to various political and ethical issues that arise when considering the function and practice of the media. These include: What is ethical theory and what, in particular, are the duties and responsibilities of those engaged in disseminating information? Should journalists be considered professionals, and how have new communication technologies shaped the practice of journalism? What is the relation between the media and the market? Is news a mere commodity? Is the mass media controlled by the commercial interests of the property class? Or is the media an instrument of democracy, a means of freedom of the press in a liberal society? What is the role of the media in the formation of social, civic and moral space? What might it mean to say that our experiences are mediated and how in a globalized world do such mediations construct and make possible the appearance of distant others? What risks and promises do these mediations pose for the other? What, for

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