

## OTEO2125 Morality in Mass Media

Prof. John Bartunek, LC, SThD

### Descrizione Generale

This course will examine the nature of mass media and their proper role in furthering the common good. A brief review of the principles of natural law and human dignity will precede a detailed analysis of four important questions: 1) What is “mass media”? 2) How can mass media help further the common good? 3) What ethical principles should guide producers in mass media industries? 4) What ethical principles should guide consumers of mass media products? This analysis will include examination of current examples and trends. The course grade will be determined by three factors: 1) the quality of a student’s class participation; 2) two in-class quizzes; 3) a final examination. (3 ECTS)

### Lingua di insegnamento

English

### Learning Outcomes (LO) – Conoscenze e abilità da conseguire

1. Students will attain a basic understanding of the ways in which modern mass media potentially and actually both challenges and also supports efforts to further the common good.
2. Students will practice and thereby improve their capacity to apply moral norms in the resolution of practical dilemmas.
3. Students will develop a greater awareness of the current situation of mass media.

### Metodologia

The lessons will consist of lecture and discussion.

### Modo di verifica dell’apprendimento

In-class participation will count for 15% of each student’s grade. During the semester there will be two in-class quizzes, 15% of the grade. Students will be able to choose the modality of their final exam: a written exam of two hours, or a written essay between 3000-5000 words (the essay topic may be chosen by the student with the professor’s approval) – 70% of the grade.

### Orario di lezioni:

Tuesdays: III, IV

### Programma / Contenuti

See below.

### Calendario di lezioni

Data	Argomento
23 feb (III,IV)	✓ <i>Course introduction</i> ✓ <i>The Church and Media Ethics</i>
1 mar (III,IV)	✓ <i>Definition of terms: “Common Good”</i> ✓ <i>Definition of terms: “Mass Media”</i>
8 mar (III,IV)	✓ <i>Why Mass Media Matters</i>
15 mar (I,II)	✓ <i>Ethics in Journalism (production and consumption)</i>
5 apr (I,II)	✓ <i>Ethics in Advertising</i>
12 apr (I,II)	✓ <i>Ethics in Story-Entertainment (production and consumption)</i>
19 apr (I,II)	✓ <i>Ethics in Video Game-Entertainment (production and consumption)</i>

<b>26 apr (I,II)</b>	✓	<i>Ethics in Entertainment (production and consumption)</i>
<b>3 mag (I,II)</b>	✓	<i>Ethics in Music (production and consumption)</i>
<b>10 mag (I,II)</b>	✓	<i>Cyberspace: A New Ethical Arena?</i>
	✓	<i>Ethics in Social Networking</i>
<b>17 mag (I,II)</b>	✓	<i>Ethics and Law, Part I: Compulsory General Education</i>
	✓	<i>Ethics and Law, Part II: Outlawing Vice</i>
	✓	<i>Ethics and Law, Part III: Intellectual Property Rights</i>
<b>24 mag (I,II)</b>	✓	<i>Review and Discussion of required readings</i>
<b>31 mag (I,II)</b>	✓	<i>Review and Discussion of required readings</i>

### Distribuzione di tempo

The course is worth 3 ECTS, requiring 75 hours of work divided as follows:

- Classes: 28 (26 + final exam)
- Readings and personal study (47)

### Orario di ricevimento

Upon request, [jbartunek@legionaries.org](mailto:jbartunek@legionaries.org)

### Bibliografia

Students must complete the required readings before the last two weeks of classes, during which those readings will be discussed.

*(Required Readings – available on the Vatican website in various languages)*

Papal Discourses for World Communication Days, 1967-2011

VATICAN COUNCIL II, Conciliar Decree *Inter mirifica*, December 4, 1963

VATICAN COUNCIL II, Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et spes*, December 7, 1965

POPE PIUS XII, *The Ideal Film: Exhortations to representatives of the world of Cinema*, June 21 and October 25, 1955.

POPE PIUS XII, Encyclical Letter *Miranda prorsus*, September 8, 1957

PONTIFICAL COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS, Pastoral Instruction *Communio et progressio*, May 23, 1971

PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS, *Ethics in Advertising*, February 22, 1997

PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS, *Ethics in Communications*, June 2, 2000

PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS, *Ethics in Internet*, February 28, 2002

PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS, Pastoral Instruction *Aetatis novae*, February 22, 1992

*(Reference Works)*

HOWARD GOOD, *Ethics and Entertainment: Essays on Media Culture and Media Morality*

LEE WILKINS, *The Handbook of Mass Media Ethics*

CLIFFORD G CHRISTIANS, *Media ethics: Cases and Moral Reasoning*

*Encyclopedia of Catholic Social Thought, Social Science, and Social Policy*