

Faculty	Management and Social Sciences	
Department	Sociology	
Course Title	Media and the Court	
Year of Study	3	
Course Code	CSS 303	
Credit Hours	2	
Contact Hours	30	
Mode of Delivery	Classroom Lectures	
Mode of Assessment		Weight%
Continuous Assessment		30%
Final Examination		70%
Total		100%
Course Lecture/Instructor	Mr. Ameh Musa	
Course Description	An examination of the information act interaction, right to free Speech and press, libel and the administration of the criminal justice system,	
Course Objectives	At the end of this course students should be able to know: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. information act interaction 2. right to free Speech 3. right to press 4. libel 5. administration of the criminal justice system, 	
Learning Outcomes	At the end of this course students should know: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. information act interaction 2. right to free Speech 3. right to press 4. libel 5. administration of the criminal justice system, 	
Teaching and Learning	The class will meet for two hours each week. Class time will be used for a combination of lectures and practical sessions	
Detailed Course Content	criminology, criminal behaviour and the methods of studying it; Topics to be examined include causation; typologies of criminal acts and offenders; the practices and effects of punishment, correction, and incapacitation; and the prevention of crime	
Course Content Sequencing		
Weeks	Detailed Course Outline	Allocated Time
Week 1	Introduction to Media and the Court in Nigeria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the role of media in the Nigerian legal system • Overview of the Information Act • Historical context of media and the court 	2 hours

Week 2	Freedom of Expression and the Nigerian Constitution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The right to free speech and press in Nigeria • Limits and exceptions • Case studies on landmark freedom of expression cases 	2 hours
Week 3	Media Ethics and Responsibility <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional ethics for journalists in court reporting • Maintaining integrity and accuracy in legal reporting • Guest speaker: A practicing journalist or media ethics expert 	2 hours
Week 4	The Nigerian Court System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Structure and hierarchy of the Nigerian court system • Key stakeholders in the legal process • An overview of the criminal justice system in Nigeria 	2 hours
Week 5	Reporting on Court Proceedings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to courtrooms and legal documents • Ethical considerations when covering court cases • In-class exercise: Mock court reporting 	2 hours
Week 6	Libel and Defamation in Nigerian Media <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of libel and defamation • Laws governing libel in Nigeria • Defenses against libel claims 	2 hours
Week 7	Case Study: Notable Libel Cases in Nigeria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyzing famous libel cases in Nigerian media • Impact on media organizations and journalists • Legal and ethical lessons learned 	2 hours
Week 8	Privacy Rights and Court Reporting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Balancing the public's right to know with privacy concerns • Legal restrictions on media intrusion • Case studies on privacy-related legal issues 	2 hours
Week 9	Media and Contempt of Court <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the concept of contempt of court • How media can inadvertently commit contempt • Best practices for avoiding contempt issues 	2 hours
Week 10	Reporting on High-Profile Trials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenges and responsibilities in covering high-profile cases • Media sensationalism and its impact on the justice system • Guest speaker: A legal expert or journalist experienced in high-profile cases 	2 hours
Week 11	Social Media and Court Reporting	2 hours

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The role of social media in reporting legal proceedings • Ethical considerations when using social media for court coverage • Case studies on social media's impact on court cases 	
Week 12	Course Conclusion and Future Trends <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recap of key concepts and topics covered • Emerging trends in media and the court in Nigeria • Final presentations or projects by students 	
Week 13	Revision	
Week 14	Examination	

RECOMMENDED MATERIALS

Week 1: Introduction to Media and the Court in Nigeria

- Reading: "Media and the Nigerian Judiciary" by Idorenyin Esikot
- Reading: "The Role of the Media in the Administration of Justice in Nigeria" by Umar Danfulani and L. W. Mutah

Week 2: Freedom of Expression and the Nigerian Constitution

- Reading: "Freedom of Expression in Nigeria: Legal Framework and Challenges" by Ayo Oke
- Reading: Relevant sections of the Nigerian Constitution (1999, as amended)

Week 3: Media Ethics and Responsibility

- Reading: "Media Ethics and Laws in Nigeria" by George Omoraro
- Reading: "The Role of Media Ethics in Fostering Credible Journalism in Nigeria" by Ikechukwu A. Diugwu

Week 4: The Nigerian Court System

- Reading: "An Overview of the Nigerian Legal System" by Patricia Godwin
- Reading: "The Structure and Jurisdiction of Nigerian Courts" by C. O. Okonkwo

Week 5: Reporting on Court Proceedings

- Reading: "Court Reporting: A Guide for Journalists" by BBC Academy
- In-class exercise using real court cases and judgments

Week 6: Libel and Defamation in Nigerian Media

- Reading: "Libel and Slander Laws in Nigeria" by Olabisi D. Akinkugbe
- Reading: Relevant sections of the Nigerian Penal Code and Criminal Code

Week 7: Case Study: Notable Libel Cases in Nigeria

- Reading: "Media and Libel: A Historical Perspective" by Ugochukwu Ejinkeonye
- Analysis of specific libel cases in Nigeria, sourced from legal databases

Week 8: Privacy Rights and Court Reporting

- Reading: "Privacy Rights in Nigeria: An Overview" by Chioma Orji
- Reading: "Balancing Privacy and Freedom of Expression in Nigeria" by Uchenna Jerome Orji

Week 9: Media and Contempt of Court

- Reading: "Contempt of Court in Nigeria" by Charles Dami David
- Reading: "The Relationship Between the Media and Contempt of Court" by Tobi Salami

Week 10: Reporting on High-Profile Trials

- Reading: "The Challenges of Reporting High-Profile Cases in Nigeria" by Femi Falana
- Case studies on high-profile trials in Nigeria from reputable news sources

Week 11: Social Media and Court Reporting

- Reading: "Social Media and Its Impact on the Legal System in Nigeria" by Olumide Babalola
- Analysis of social media's role in recent legal cases

Week 12: Course Conclusion and Future Trends

- Reading: "Trends in Media and the Court System in Nigeria" by Isabella O. Ekwugha
- Research articles and reports on emerging trends in media and the court in Nigeria

Week13: Revision

Week 14: Examination