SPE 213 The Impact of the Mass Media on the Administration of Justice

(Same course as LAW 213)

3 hours, 3 credits

Examination of the role of the media — TV, radio, newspapers, and magazines — on the administration of justice. The influence of the media on the jury and the judge. The dangers of trial by newspaper and of TV in the courtroom. Is impartial justice possible? The British approach. Problems of free speech and press; "contempt by publication" rule; constitutional protections. Suggested guidelines for the media. The psychological basis of audience response.

Prerequisites: ENG 101 and SPE 113

SPE 240 Contemporary Media in Everyday Life

3 hours, 3 credits

Contemporary media in the form of personal communication devices, radio, television, film, and computer games, and instantaneous global communication by means of the Internet or orbiting satellites, have left few spheres of human existence untouched. These and other contemporary media forms educate us, stimulate our desires, provide us with real or virtual communities, and shape our private and public identities and fantasies. This course offers a study of the contemporary media arena and the impact it has on our lives as
citizens and consumers. Through a targeted examination of contemporary media culture including, video games, advertising, Internet, film, TV and music, students will deepen their critical and theoretical understanding of how the mass media operates to construct our sense of culture, place, identity, and citizenship. To develop a historical and analytical understanding of this subject, students will read a variety of scholarly and popular texts, and closely examine a variety of contemporary media forms.

Prerequisites: ENG 101, SPE 113