

HCOM 310: Free Speech and Responsibility

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Weekly Outline

Part One: Historical Context

Week One: Course Introduction

January 22:

Convening: Class Introduction, Review Syllabus

Workshop: Introduction to Seminar

 ALL READ:

- "[From Tiny Sect, Weighty Issues For the Justices](#)" New York Times, November 10, 2008 ([here in PDF](#))

Week Two: Definitions and Starting Places

January 29:

Seminar:

 ALL READ:

- Levinson, Outspoken, Introduction and Chapter 3, "Beyond Mere Dissent"
- Review the case of [Raed Jarrar](#) from the ACLU web site

Convening: Blogging

If you have a laptop computer with wireless connection, please bring this to class. If not, someone can share for the workshop.

- Last names A through K: 6:00 to 6:45
- Last names L through Z: 7:00 to 7:45

In preparation for class, please review the following Power Point, [Creating and Using a Blog](#) (CAUTION: This is a large file... dial up users beware) and browse the following web sites:

- "[Blog](#)" from Wikipedia. This is a general overview of blogs, their history and their impact.
- [Weblog Ethics](#) from Rebecca Blood's [The Weblog Handbook](#)
- David L. Hudson, Jr. "[Blogging](#)" from the First Amendment Center

Week Three: Speech, Assembly and the Press Before the First Amendment

February 5:

Seminar:

 ALL READ:

- Larry Eldridge, "Boundaries of Colonial Speech" ([Blackboard](#))
- Browse this [John Peter Zenger Trial web site](#), especially this [chronology](#) and the "[Colony Divided](#)" section.

Convening: Documentary History of Colonial Speech Regulation

 ALL READ: (please bring copies of these documents to class)

- Ervin L. Jordan, Jr., "[Jamestown, Virginia, 1607-1907: An Overview](#)"
- Selections from "[For The Colony in Virginea Britannia. Lawes Divine, Morall and Martiall, &c.](#)" (1612) (PDF) (Note: if you are interested, the full and complete document is [available here](#))
- Begin completing [this worksheet](#) in preparation for discussion

Spring 2009

1/22

1/29

2/5

2/12

2/19

2/26

3/5

3/12

3/19

3/26

4/2

4/9

4/16

4/23

4/30

5/7

5/12



Project Censored from Sonoma State University at the Bay Area Anarchist Book Fair. This annual publication re-prints the most censored news stories of the year. Read about the project [here](#). Courtesy of Steve Rhodes.

California State University Monterey Bay

Division of Humanities and Communication

Best viewed with [Mozilla Firefox](#) or Internet Explorer

EXTRA for class discussion: [Free Speech in the Colonial Period](#) (Power Point)

Week Four: A Closer Look at Religious Freedom as Free Expression

February 12:

Seminar and Convening: Founding Faith

 ALL READ:

- Waldman, Founding Faith, Introduction and Chapters 1-12 (up to p. 126)
- Skim "[The Trial of Anne Hutchinson](#)" (1637)

EXTRA for class discussion: [Founding Faith](#) (Power Point)

Week Five: Crafting the First Amendment--Speech and Assembly

February 19:


Seminar:

 ALL READ:

- [Introduction to the Free Speech Clause](#) from Exploring Constitutional Conflicts. Pay close attention to the various approaches suggested for First Amendment analysis
- [Overview: Ratification and the Federalist Papers](#) from the James Madison Center

EXTRA for class discussion: [Free Speech and the First Amendment](#) (Power Point)

Convening: Controlling Dissent?

 ALL READ: Browse these documents for our discussion:

- New York Chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, "[Report: Rights and Wrongs at the RNC](#)"
- [The Battle for New York: 500,000 March Against Bush in Historic Antiwar Protest](#) from Democracy Now

 You can listen to this broadcast [here](#)

 FILM: "[Some Assembly Required](#)" (2004) from the First Amendment Project

Week Six: Religious Freedom and the First Amendment

February 26:

Seminar:

 ALL READ:

- Waldman, Founding Faith, Chapters 13-17 (127-205)
- James Madison, "[Memorial and Remonstrance for Religious Freedom](#)" (1783)

Convening: Religion and Contemporary Politics

 FILM: "[God and Politics 2008](#)" from NOW

Week Seven: Early Challenges to the Meaning of Free Speech

March 5: Sedition or Legitimate Protest?

Seminar:

 ALL READ:

- The text of [the Sedition Act of 1798](#)
- Larry Gragg, "Order vs. Liberty" ([Blackboard](#))

EXTRA: For class discussion [Early Challenges to the Meaning of Free Speech](#) (Power Point)

Convening: Origins of a Modern Legal Framework for Free Speech



ALL READ:

- The [Sedition Act of 1918](#) from the WW I Document Archives
- Read this summary of [Schenck v. United States](#) (1919)
- Here is the [flyer](#) in question from the Schenck case (PDF)

EXTRA: For class discussion, [Origins of a Modern Free Speech Framework](#) (Power Point)

Week Eight: Modern Free Speech Comes of Age

March 12: Sixties Challenges

Convening: How Sixties Protest Challenged Ideas about Free Speech



BROWSE these case summaries:

- [Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Comm. School District](#) (1969)
- [Brandenburg v. Ohio](#) (1969)
- [Cohen v. California](#) (1971)

EXTRA for class discussion: [Free Speech and Sixties Challenges](#) (Power Point)



FILM: Selection from "Berkeley in the Sixties"

Seminar:

Mid-Term Review

Week Nine: Spring Break!

March 19: No class meeting

Week Ten: Mid-Term Assessment

March 26: In-Class Mid-Term Examination



You may use class notes, required books or articles. No personal computers will be permitted for use on the exam.

Part Two: Contemporary Flash Points Around Free Speech

Week Eleven: Wartime and National Security

April 2:

Seminar



CHOOSE ONE:

- Levinson, *Outspoken*, Chapter 1, "I Pledge Allegiance" OR Chapter 2, "A Matter of Conscience"
- Browse the on-line exhibit, "[The War Within](#)" from the University of California Irvine

Convening: Wartime and a Free Press



FILM: "[Buying the War](#)" (2007)

Week Twelve: Hate Speech

April 9:

Seminar:



ALL READ:

- David Hudson, "[Hate Speech and Speech Codes](#)" from the First Amendment Center
- Browse "[Regulation of Fighting Words and Hate Speech](#)" from the

EXTRA for class discussion: [Hate Speech](#) (Power Point)

Convening: Responding to Hate



FILM: "[The Fire Next Time](#)" (2005)

Week Thirteen: Obscenity and Pornography

April 16:

Convening: Out of Bounds?

EXTRA for class discussion, "[Obscenity and Pornography](#)" (Power Point)

Seminar:



ALL READ:

- Browse [these statements about pornography](#) from Feminists for Free Expression
- Watch [these introductory remarks by Gail Dines](#) at the National Feminist Conference on Pornography & Pop Culture in 2007 and read her short article, "[Pornography and Pop Culture](#)"

Week Fourteen: Art and Politics

April 23:

Seminar:



CHOOSE ONE:

- Levinson, *Outspoken*, Chapter 7, "Something to Offend Nearly Everyone" OR Chapter 6, "That Special Shimmer"
- Optional: Browse [Annie Sprinkle's web site](#). (Note, some of you may find this site offensive. Use your discretion.)

AND

- Browse this [Handbook on Freedom for Artistic Expression](#) by the National Campaign for Freedom of Expression

EXTRA for class discussion, "[Art and Free Expression](#)" (Power Point)

Convening: Pushing Boundaries Or Going Too Far?



ALL READ:

- Browse these materials about the "Virtual Jihadi" exhibit by video artist Wafaa Bilal and the controversy surrounding its censorship.
 - [Artist's statement](#)
 - "[Terror-Themed Game Suspended: Iraqi-Born Artist Asserts Censorship After Exhibit Is Shut Down](#)" from the *Washington Post*
 - "[Free Troy Letters](#)"
 - "[Bilal Exhibition Suspended Pending Review](#)"



FILM: "[Art Does Not Equal Terrorism](#)"

Week Fifteen: Students, Teachers and Free Speech

April 30 :

Seminar:



ALL READ:

- Levinson, *Outspoken*, Chapter 9, "Insubordinate"
- Browse the [Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network \(GLSEN\)](#) homepage, especially the section "Know the Issues"
- "[Education Turned Perversion, Dr. James Dobson Warns of a 'Grand Strategy' to Entrap Our Children](#)," from Focus on the Family

EXTRA for class discussion, "[Students, Teachers and Free Speech](#)" (Power Point)

Convening: Who Decides What Students Learn?



FILM: [Judgment Day: Intelligent Design on Trial](#) " (2007)

Week Sixteen: Free Speech Implications of Media Consolidation

May 7:

Seminar:



ALL READ:

- [Facts on Media in America](#) from Common Cause
- Review the "[National Entertainment State](#)" from The Nation. (If not available, download a [PDF copy here](#)).
- Watch: "[Massing of the Media](#)" (2007)

Convening: Wrapping Up and Final Exam Review Session

FINAL EXAMINATION QUESTIONS [WILL BE POSTED HERE ON THE HCOM 310 WEB SITE ON MAY 8](#)

Week Seventeen: Take Home Final Examination Due

May 12:



DUE uploaded to the HCOM 310 Blackboard site no later than 5:00 P.M. Please note that no late examinations will be accepted.

Web site maintained by David A. Reichard / Design by Andreas Viklund.