

Spring 2018
Special Topics: Hate Speech—Philosophy and Law
Political Science 490—001
Philosophy 395—001
Class Time: M, 4:00am—5:30pm
CCC 101

Instructors:

John C. Blakeman, Ph.D. Political Science
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Office Hours: M,T,W, 10:00am—11:00am

Charles Joshua Horn, Ph.D.
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Office Hours: MW, 1:00pm—2:00pm

Course Description:

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to freedom of speech, but this right has limitations. Although things like slander and libel are not protected, hate speech has been defended by the Supreme Court. In short, the Supreme Court has ruled that while the government cannot regulate the *content* of speech, they can regulate the time, place, and medium by which that speech can be conveyed. But how does the High Court make decisions about what constitutes protected speech? In addition to the legal questions, there are also philosophical questions related to free speech. For instance, some philosophers argue that not all speech possesses content worthy of civic engagement. And even if the speech is legally protected, what is the best way to combat speech of which we might not approve?

Text:

1. *Free Speech on Campus*
Yale University Press
ISBN: 978-0-300-22656-0

NOTE: The text is provided to you by the Political Science Department. It must be returned to the instructors at the end of the course. No grade will be submitted until the book is returned.

Course Goals:

By carefully examining the free speech protections of the First Amendment, students will gain a better understanding of the nature of hate speech. In particular, we will focus on the legal and moral permissibility of controversial hate speech on college campuses.

Expectations:

Students are expected to attend every class and remain for the entire time. Do not come late or leave early. Students must complete the necessary readings prior to class and be prepared for discussion and participation. Students will treat other students with respect. This means, turning off all electrical equipment, including cell phones, laptops, and tablets. Students must also address their peers in a respectful tone. It is important to note that the nature of this class will inevitably result in disagreements among colleagues; however, it is essential to maintain respect toward one another despite disagreement.

Additionally, this course will utilize the Desire2Learn online system to facilitate certain aspects of the class. It is required that you check in with D2L regularly to find class updates, submit work, check grades, etc.

Grading Criteria:

Final grades will be calculated based upon the following. Late work will never be accepted unless an extension has been granted by Dr. Horn prior to the due date. Extensions will only be granted in extreme circumstances.

- a) Four Analysis Papers 25% Each (100% Total)
 - i) Analysis paper will be due at the beginning of each class and cover the assigned readings for the day. These are *not* summaries of the material. Rather, they are a way to reflect on the material before class. Analysis papers should be between 400-500 words. In each essay, you need to answer the following questions: A. what is the most important unanswered question from the reading? B. what is the author wrong about? Why? And C. What is the most interesting part of the reading? Analysis papers should be uploaded to the D2L Dropbox by the beginning of each class period. Hard copies must also be submitted at the beginning of class as well.

*Grading will be anonymous when possible and will follow this scale:

A Range (90—100%)	B Range (80—89%)	C Range (70—79%)	D Range (64—69%)	F Range (0—63%)
	B+ (87—89)	C+ (77—79)	D+ (67—69)	F (<63)
A (94—100)	B (84—86)	C (74—76)	D (64—66)	
A- (90—93)	B- (80—83)	C- (70—73)		

Academic Integrity:

Cheating, fabrication, plagiarism or helping others to commit these acts will not be tolerated. Academic dishonesty will result in severe disciplinary action including, but not limited to, failure of the student assessment item or course, and/or dismissal from the University. Additional information can be found at:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/SRR-2010/rightsChap14.pdf>

Disability Information:

Students with disabilities should register with the ADA coordinator on campus and let me know at the beginning of the semester. I would be happy to accommodate you in any way that I can. Just let me know. More information can be found at:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/stuaffairs/Documents/RightsRespons/ADA/rightsADAPolicyInfo.pdf>

Course Schedule:

January 22	Syllabus/Course Introduction	
January 29	FSoC: Ch. 1—The New Censorship FSoC: Ch. 2—Why is Free Speech Important?	1—21 22—48
February 5	FSoC: Ch. 3— <i>Nullius in Verba</i> : Free Speech at Colleges and Universities D2L, “Limits on Free Speech?”, Judith Butler	49—81
February 12	FSoC: Ch. 4—Hate Speech D2L, “Liberalism and Campus Hate Speech: D2L, “ <i>Chaplinsky v. New Hampshire</i> ” D2L, “ <i>R.A.V. v. St. Paul</i> ” D2L, “ <i>Virginia v. Black</i> ”	82—110 302—317
February 19	FSoC: Ch. 5—What Campuses Can and Can’t Do D2L, “Free Speech, Personified (NYT)”, Peter Salovey D2L, “The University’s Response to August 11, 2017” D2L, “University Police Department Report” *RETURN BOOKS TO INSTRUCTORS*	111—152