

Colloquium on First Amendment Values

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Office Hours: Thursdays, 1:00 - 2:00pm

Subject:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

This colloquium examines the first amendment rights of speech, privacy, freedom of the press and freedom of association. Analysis of landmark Supreme Court rulings and scholarly commentary will provide the basis for exploring the theoretical antecedents as well as contemporary applications of libel law, obscenity, symbolic speech, freedom of the press and freedom of association. This course will be conducted much like a law school seminar, with participants responsible for completing an in-depth research paper and weekly presentations.

The final paper is due on the last day of our class. Late submissions will suffer an automatic one-half grade deduction.

Texts (all are available at the Columbia University bookstore):

Abrams, Speaking Freely

Alterman, What Liberal Media?

Bagdikian, The New Media Monopoly

Bozell, Weapons of Mass Distortion

Cook, Governing the Media: The News Media as a Political Institution

Frankel, The Times of My Life and My Life with the Times

Goldberg, Bias

Hamilton, All the News That's Fit to Sell

Jamieson, The Press Effect

Henry Jenkins, Convergence Culture: Where Old and New Media Collide

Klosterman, Sex, Drugs and Cocoa Puffs

Lewis, Freedom for the Thought That We Hate

Massing, Now They Tell Us: The American Press and Iraq

Mindich, *Tuned Out: Why Americans Under 40 Don't Follow the News*
McChesney, *The Problem of the Media*
McClellan, *What Happened: Inside the Bush White House*
McGowan, *Coloring the News*
Paul, *Pornified*
Shapiro, *Porn Generation*
Stone, *Perilous Times*

Week One:

The History and Philosophy of Free Expression:
Doctrinal Underpinnings and Relevant Legal Antecedents

Week Two:

Seminal U.S. Supreme Court precedent
Abrams, *Speaking Freely*
Lewis, *Freedom for the Thought That We Hate*

Week Three:

First Amendment Values in “Perilous Times”
Stone, *Perilous Times*

Week Four:

“Perilous Times” in Contemporary Context:
The War on Terror and a Fair and Free Press
McClellan, *What Happened: Inside the Bush White House*
Massing, *Now They Tell Us: The American Press and Iraq*

Week Five:

The Fourth Estate and our Tripartite System of Government:
An Uneasy Coexistence?
McChesney, *The Problem of the Media*
Bozell, *Weapons of Mass Distortion*

Week Six:

Bias in the Media?
Goldberg, *Bias*
McGowan, *Coloring the News*

Week Seven:

Bias Reconsidered

Alterman, What Liberal Media?

Jamieson, The Press Effect

Week Eight:

First Amendment Values in a Market Economy

Hamilton, All the News That's Fit to Sell

Bagdikian, The New Media Monopoly

Week Nine:

Mass Media as an Institution

Cook, Mass Media

Jenkins, Convergence Culture

Week Ten:

The Press We Deserve?

Mindich, Tuned Out

Klosterman, Sex, Drugs and Cocoa Puffs

Week Eleven:

Obscenity and Pornography

Paul, Pornified,

Shapiro, Porn Generation

Week Twelve:

The Promise of the Media

Frankel, The Times of My Life and My Life with the Times

Week Thirteen:

Paper Presentations