

Political Science BC 3254y
Barnard College
Spring 2013
Tuesdays 4:10 – 6:00pm

[Professor Paula Franzese](#)
Office Hours: Tue 6:00 – 7:00pm
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POLS BC 3254
Lecture Course on First Amendment Values

Course Description:

This course 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 class.

Prerequisites: POLS W1201 “Introduction to American Government & Politics” or equivalent. This course has a limited enrollment of 25 students.

Requirements: Students are required to attend all classes. This class is conducted much like a law school class, and students will be required to actively participate. In addition to a final exam, students are required to submit four five-page reflections on selected readings.

Learning Objectives: This course will provide students with a working knowledge of the legal method of inquiry, as it pertains to matters of constitutional adjudication. Specifically, students will learn to:

1. Identify the various constitutional standards of judicial review.
2. Apply legal and analytical constructs to contemporary issues of free speech and association, while critically examining historical and theoretical underpinnings of libel law, hate speech, freedom of the press, virtual speech, political discourse, obscenity, and bias in the media.
3. Evaluate in oral and written presentations the merits and shortcomings of the major theoretical debates within the first amendment narrative.
4. Analyze and assess contemporary scholarly and journalistic writings on free speech values by critically examining their strengths, weaknesses and applicable counterpoints.

Grading: Grades will be calculated as follows:

Class participation: 15%

Written reflections: 45%

Final Exam: 40%

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

Alterman, *What Liberal Media?*

Bagdikian, *The New Media Monopoly*

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

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*

McGowan, *Coloring the News*

Morozov, *The Net Delusion*

Paul, *Pornified*

Rauch, *Kindly Inquisitors*

Rich, *The Greatest Story Ever Sold*

Sheppard, *The Partisan Press*

Steele, *Whistling Vivaldi*

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
Lewis, Freedom for the Thought That We Hate
Morozov, The Net Delusion
Please prepare a three page reflection on some aspect of Lewis that you found particularly relevant to the points made in The Net Delusion.

Week Three:

First Amendment Values in "Perilous Times"
Stone, Perilous Times
Please prepare a three page reflection linking "Perilous Times" to the Wikileaks controversy.

Week Four:

"Perilous Times" in Contemporary Context:
The War on Terror and a Fair and Free Press
Massing, Now They Tell Us: The American Press and Iraq
Rich, The Greatest Story Ever Sold

Week Five:

The Fourth Estate and our Tripartite System of Government:
An Uneasy Coexistence?
McChesney, The Problem of the Media
Sheppard, The Partisan Press
Please prepare a three page reflection linking lessons gleaned from McChesney and Sheppard to your assimilation of last week's readings by Massing and Rich.

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:

Steele, Whistling Vivaldi

Please prepare a three page reflection on your views on bias in the media and how they have changed, if at all, as a consequence of the assigned reading.

Week Nine:

First Amendment Values in a Market Economy Hamilton, All the News That's Fit to Sell

Bagdikian, The New Media Monopoly

Week Ten:

Mass Media as an Institution

Cook, Mass Media

Jenkins, Convergence Culture

Week Eleven:

The Press We Deserve?

Mindich, Tuned Out

Klosterman, Sex, Drugs and Cocoa Puffs

Please prepare a three page reflection on the role of the media as both mirror and catalyst in shaping consumer preferences.

Week Twelve:

Obscenity and Pornography

Paul, Pornified

Week Thirteen:

The Promise of the Media

Rauch, *Kindly Inquisitors*