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Political Science
Spring 2008

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

POLS BC 3302y Colloquium on First Amendment Values
Thursdays 11:00-12:50 p.m.

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*
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*
Paul, *Pornified*
Rich, *The Greatest Story Ever Sold*
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

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
Bozell, Weapons of Mass Distortion
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
Rich, The Greatest Story Ever Sold

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 Promise of the Press and Media
Frankel, The Times of My Life and My Life with the Times
Viewing of excerpts of Good Night and Good Luck

Week Eleven:

The Press We Deserve?

Mindich, Tuned Out

Klosterman, Sex, Drugs and Cocoa Puffs

Week Twelve:

Obscenity and Pornography

Paul, Pornified,

Shapiro, Porn Generation

Week Thirteen:

Paper Presentations

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