

Free Speech on Campus

Professor Lee Epstein and Chancellor Andrew D. Martin

Political Science 334

Spring 2020

1. **Description.** For generations controversies over free expression have rocked campuses across the United States. Through a series of case studies, this course explores how the First Amendment's guarantees of freedom of speech and association play out in colleges and universities. Readings consist of court decisions, theories, and commentary on free expression, as well as background material on the real-world controversies we analyze.

2. **Readings.** All readings are freely available via links on the [course outline](#) page.

3. **Evaluation Method.** We base your grades on class attendance and participation (20%), three short essays (60%), and a statement on free expression (20%).

For the essays, please select three of the case-controversies covered in class. One week after we discuss the controversy, please submit an essay explaining the arguments on both sides and analyzing each side's strengths and weaknesses. Each essay should be no longer than five pages (including references), double spaced with 1-inch margins, using 12-point Times New Roman font.

UPDATED ON MARCH 14: For the statement, please craft a model statement regarding freedom of expression on campus OR explain why universities should not have such statements. You should base your statement (or explanation) on class materials, discussions, and lectures. The statement (or explanation) should be no longer than five pages (including references), double spaced with 1-inch margins, using 12-point Times New Roman font. The statement is due on Monday, May 4, 2020.

Introduction to the Course (January 15) [no section meetings the week of January 13]

[The Future of Free Speech](#) (Friday, January 17). This is discussion sponsored by the Law School, from **3-4:15 pm**, in the Bryan Cave Moot Courtroom. Please try to attend.

[Tools 1: Justifications for Free Expression](#)

Because of MLK Day, Monday (January 20) Sections will meet on Wednesday, January 22, in AB 306, during class hours (10:30-Noon)

Tuesday (January 21) Sections will meet as scheduled; there is no class on Wednesday, January 22 for Tuesday Section members

[Tools 2: Freedom of Expression in the Supreme Court](#) (January 29)

[Tools 3: Social Science and Freedom of Expression](#) (February 5)

[White Supremacist Speakers](#) (February 12)

[The Professor Who Wouldn't Write a Letter of Recommendation](#) (February 19)

[Ideological Balancing & Free Speech](#) (February 26)

[The Tweeting Professor Who Lost a Job Offer](#) (March 4)

[Spring Break (March 11)]

[The Reappropriating Band](#) (March 25)

[The Halloween Costume Controversy](#) (April 1)

[A Provocateur at Commencement](#) (April 8)

[Be Careful What You Post](#) (April 15)

[Free Speech Statements](#) (April 22)