

Phil 28 Ethics & Society

Syllabus
Spring 2024
MW 10:00-10:50 am
Ledden Auditorium
Prof. Lamey's Office: RWAC 491

Andy Lamey
alamey@ucsd.edu
(858) 534-9111 (no voicemail)
Student Drop-in Hours:
Wed. 11:00 am-1:00 pm

<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Sections</i>
Dafna Mark-ben Shabat	dmarkben@ucsd.edu	M 9:00 am (A01) M 11:00 am (A02)
Emiliano Salomon	esalomn@ucsd.edu	M 12:00 pm (A08) W 5:00 pm (A07)
Karina Ortiz Villa	kortizvilla@ucsd.edu	Tu 4:00 pm (A04) W 12:00 pm (A05) W 1:00 pm (A06) F. 2:00 pm (A09)

1. Overview

This class investigates philosophical questions related to free speech and expression. Should social media be regulated to prevent the spread of hate speech? Or should hate speech in general be subject to legal punishment, regardless of where it appears? What concerns does pornography give rise to, and might they also justify a legal response? What should we do with the work of artists who are revealed to be racists or sexual harassers? Does social media incentivize the abuse of moral language, to a degree that impedes the healthy flow of ideas? These are some of the contemporary issues and debates that we will investigate. But the proper boundary of free expression is a perennial topic of controversy. For this reason we will also devote sustained attention to a major statement on free expression from the 19th century, John Stuart Mill's famous work *On Liberty*. Mill's text has had an enormous impact on how people in the United States and elsewhere think about free speech, yet its central ideas also raises important questions about how they be interpreted. We will come to grips with Mill by reading *On Liberty* in its entirety alongside an influential contemporary interpretation of his text.

In addition to Mill's view, we will expose ourselves to what contemporary thinkers have said for and against the idea of free speech as a principle of justice. In our final weeks we will watch the film *We Steal Secrets: The Story of Wikileaks*, which documents one of the major free speech controversies of our time, and one that is currently ongoing. The class assumes no particular conclusion on the issues we will examine and students of diverse political views who make an effort can do well.

2. Assessment

A 1,500-word essay due at 5:00 pm Tuesday April 23 (20%)

A 2,000-word essay due at 5:00 pm Tuesday May 14 (20%)

A 2,000-word word essay due 8:00 am Monday June 10 (30%)

Section Participation (5% attendance + 5% informed participation = 10%)

In-lecture reading quizzes (10%) Iclicker participation (10%)

Please note that there is a strong penalty for using ChatGPT to create or partially create written work for this class. Students who are found to have done so will receive a class grade of F (fail).

3. Readings and Schedule

On Liberty is available at the bookstore and on reserve at the library. All other readings will be available on Canvas.

Week One April 1-5: Intro to Phil 28 and *On Liberty*

Mon: No reading.

Wed: John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*. Elizabeth Rapaport, ed. (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1978 [1859]), 1-28 (first quarter).

Week Two April 8-12: Mill cont.

Mon: Mill, *On Liberty*, 29-56 (second quarter).

Wed: Mill, *On Liberty*, 57-85 (third quarter).

Week Three April 15-19: Mill cont.

Mon: Piers Norris Turner. "Harm" and Mill's Harm Principle. *Ethics* 124/2 (2014): 299-326.

Wed: Mill, *On Liberty*, 86-113 (final quarter).

Week Four April 22-6: Social Media

Mon: Juan Espíndola, Transitional Justice, Social Media, and Responsibility: A Conceptual and Normative Framework. Unpublished manuscript, 1-22.

First essay due 5:00 pm Tuesday April 23

Wed: C. Thi Nguyen. How Twitter Gamifies Communication. In Jennifer Lackey (ed.), *Applied Epistemology* (Oxford: Oxford University Press 2021): 410-36.

Week Five April 29-May 3: The Modern Free Speech Debate

Mon: Stanley Fish, *There's No Such Thing as Free Speech, and It's a Good Thing, Too. There's No Such Thing as Free Speech, and It's a Good Thing, Too.* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994), 102-119.

Wed: Seana Shiffrin, *A Thinker-based Approach to Freedom of Speech. Speech Matters: On Lying, Morality and the Law* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2014), 79-115.

Week Six May 6-10: Moral Grandstanding and Pornography

Mon: Justin Tosi and Brandon Warmke. Moral Grandstanding as a Threat to Free Expression. *Social Philosophy and Policy* 37 / 2 (2020): 170-189.

Wed: Amia Srinivasan. Talking to my Students About Porn. *The Right to Sex: Feminism in the Twenty-First Century.* (New York: Picador, 2021), 33-72.

Week Seven May 13: Artistic Boycotts

Mon: Erich Hatala Matthes, *Drawing the Line: What to Do With the Work of Immoral Artists from Museums to the Movies* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022), 41-74.

Wed: Matthes, *Drawing the Line*, 75-115.

Week Eight: May 20: Hate Speech and Wikileaks

Mon: Henry Louis Gates Jr. Let Them Talk. *The New Republic* September 20 1993, 37-49.

Also Mon: Jeremy Waldron. Approaching Hate Speech. *The Harm in Hate Speech.* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2014), 1-17.

Second essay due 5:00 pm Tuesday May 14

Wed: *We Steal Secrets: The Story of Wikileaks* (2013) (Director: Alex Gibney).

Week Nine May 27-31: Hate Speech and Wikileaks Cont.

Mon: Jeremy Waldron. The Appearance of Hate. *The Harm in Hate Speech*, 65-89.

Also Mon: Matthew Kramer. Legitimate Restrictions. *Freedom of Expression as Self-restraint* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2021), 65-76, 93-99, 111-13.

Wed: *We Steal Secrets* cont.

Week Ten June 3-7: Hate Speech and Wikileaks Cont.

Mon: Jeremy Waldron. The Appearance of Hate. *The Harm in Hate Speech*, 89-104.

Also Mon: Robert Simpson. Dignity, Harm, and Hate Speech. *Law and Philosophy* 32/6: (2013): 701-728.*

* *Students do not have to read sections IV and V (pages 710-17) of Simpson.*

Wed: *We Steal Secrets* fin.

Exam-week essay due 8:00 am Monday June 10

4. General Information

Student Drop-in Hours

I am happy to meet with students during my drop-in hours, during which students should feel free to come by without an appointment. I'm also available by appointment outside of these hours. I'm always happy to discuss any aspect of this course with you.

Email Policy

I am happy to reply to emails sent from UCSD email addresses. I do not reply to emails from non-UCSD addresses. Please note that there are two subjects I do not discuss by email, even if they are sent from a UCSD account. These are:

- a) Requests for information about an exam or other assignment due during exam week that arrive in the 24-hour period immediately preceding the assignment deadline.
- b) Requests to discuss or adjust your final class grade. If you have an issue with your grade please make an appointment to discuss it during my office hour next quarter. If you are graduating let me know and we will make alternative arrangements.

One-time Discretionary Extension

We are happy to grant each student one essay extension of up to 48 hours without requiring a medical certificate or other documentation. In order to grant such an extension your TA need to receive your request before noon (San Diego time) on the day the essay in question is due. Email is fine, but please note that UCSD's email servers sometimes go down, and students are advised not to leave their requests to the last minute. Requests received after noon on the due date will require documentation, as will requests for extensions longer than 48 hours. Please note that if you receive an extension your paper may be returned after those that were completed on time.

Note that each student is entitled to only one discretionary essay extension. So if you receive one for your first essay, any extension for the second essay will require documentation.

Also please note that discretionary extensions are NOT available for assignments due during exam-week.

Late Work

For all essays handed in after the due date and without an extension, a five percent penalty applies for the first day of the missed deadline. After that, a subsequent penalty of two percent per day will be applied for the next thirteen calendar days after the due date (including Saturdays and Sundays). No assignment can be accepted after more than fourteen calendar days except in exceptional circumstances and in consultation with your professor. Assignments that are handed in late without an extension will be graded and returned after those that were completed on time and will not receive comments.

Note that non-essay assignments (e.g. Perusall assignments or online quizzes, if this class has either) are likely to have different lateness penalties. If so these will normally be outlined in the first class.

Accommodation for Disability

Students requesting accommodations for this course due to a disability must provide a current Authorization for Accommodation (AFA) letter issued by the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) which is located in University Center 202 behind Center Hall. Students are required to present their AFA letters to Faculty (please make arrangements to contact me privately) and to the OSD Liaison in the department in advance so that accommodations may be arranged. Contact the OSD for further information: 858.534.4382 (phone), osd@ucsd.edu (email), disabilities.ucsd.edu (web)

Academic Integrity

Integrity of scholarship is essential for an academic community. The University expects that both faculty and students will honor this principle and in so doing protect the validity of University intellectual work. For students, this means that all academic work will be done by the individual to whom it is assigned, without unauthorized aid of any kind. More information about UCSD's policy on academic integrity is available at <https://academicintegrity.ucsd.edu/process/policy.html>

Health and Well-being

During your time at UCSD, you may experience a range of issues that can negatively impact your learning. These may include physical illness, housing or food insecurity, strained relationships, loss of motivation, depression, anxiety, high levels of stress, alcohol and drug problems, feeling down, interpersonal or sexual violence, or grief.

These concerns or stressful events may lead to diminished academic performance and affect your ability to participate in day-to-day activities. If there are issues related to coursework that are a source of particular stress or challenge, please speak with me,

Professor's Lamey, so that I am able to support you. UC San Diego provides a number of resources to all enrolled students, including:

Counselling and Psychological Services (858-534-3755 | caps.ucsd.edu)

Student Health Services (858-534-3300 | studenthealth.ucsd.edu)

CARE at the Sexual Assault Resource Center (858-534-5793 | care.ucsd.edu)

The Hub Basic Needs Center (858-246-2632 | basicneeds.ucsd.edu)

We care about you at UC San Diego, and there is always help available.