

FIRST AMENDMENT THEORY

MMC 6665

College of Journalism and Communications
Spring Semester 2015
Wednesdays 4:05 – 8:10 p.m.
Weimer Hall, Room 1098

Prof. Clay Calvert

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Course Objectives and Goals: This four-credit seminar focuses on key theories regarding the protection of free expression. Theories examined include, among others, the marketplace of ideas, democratic self-governance and self-realization. As an advanced-level graduate seminar, the course also requires you to complete an academic conference research paper in which you will apply different theories of free expression to a current, real-life legal controversy.

The overall goal of the course is to produce an accepted, refereed conference paper. The final version of your research paper must be completed by Wednesday, March 25, 2015. That deadline is critical because the paper, in turn, must be submitted to the Law Division of the AEJMC for review and consideration for presentation at the annual AEJMC conference to be held August 5 – 9, 2015 in San Francisco. The deadline for paper submissions is April 1, 2015, hence the March 25 deadline.

Remember that this is a four-credit course. There will be a great deal of time and work that you will need to invest to do well and you will need to work cooperatively as a team on your paper.

Structure of the Course: The course is divided into three phases.

- **Phase 1 – January:** The month of January will be devoted to readings and paper assignments focused on theories of free expression. There will be three papers due in January, each of which will count for 10 percent of your overall grade. They are due on January 14, January 21 and January 28. You will work individually on these papers (they are not group papers). This phase is critical, not only because it counts for 30 percent of your overall grade, but because you will need to apply the readings during this phase to your conference research paper.

- **Phase 2 – February and March:** The months of February and March will be devoted to researching and writing the conference research paper. Details are described later in the syllabus.

When the papers are submitted to the AEJMC Law Division, my name will not appear on them as lead author **UNLESS** I deem your group to have not made consistent, substantial and significant progress during the months of February and March (including but not limited to submitting all material by all deadlines in polished form, replete with supporting footnotes).

- **Phase 3 – April:** The month of April will be devoted to: converting your paper into a law journal article; submitting your paper-turned-article to law journals; writing (individually) an op-ed version of your paper; practicing and rehearsing for the presentation of your paper at the AEJMC conference. The individually written op-ed will count for 10 percent of your overall grade..

When the papers are converted into law journal articles, my name will be added as the first (“lead”) author. This will increase the chances of acceptance of the article by a law journal.

Conference Research Paper: This is the heart of the course and will count for 60 percent of your overall grade. You will be divided into two teams of three people, with each team assigned to a specific topic. The final version of your conference research paper must be completed by March 25, 2015, and will be submitted in advance of the April 1, 2015 deadline for the AEJMC Law Division paper competition (as described above).

To help facilitate your research on the paper, ***I already have compiled one binder per team filled with key information.*** I strongly suggest that each team makes two copies of the contents of the binder so that each member has his/her own copy. You are expected, however, to go well beyond the material the binders and to use the legal research database on LexisNexis Academic that will be demonstrated during class.

In addition, ***I already have drafted the Introduction section for each paper.*** This will provide you with the structure that will guide the remaining parts of your paper. The Introduction will include a “roadmap paragraph” that will describe to you what the four parts entail (the fourth part for each paper will be a conclusion and will be shorter than the previous three parts).

You will be graded as a team on each of the remaining four parts, as well as the final paper. Each part will count for 10 percent of your overall grade (total of 40 percent), and the final version will count for an additional 10 percent. The remaining 10 percent of your grade related to the conference research paper will be based on peer evaluations of your teammates.

During class meetings, we will read and critique each part of your team paper. You'll thus receive advice and feedback from the students on the other team, as well as myself.

IMPORTANT: You must email to me *no later than 9:00 a.m. on the date it is due* each part of the paper. I thus will have several hours to review your paper BEFORE we meet. The earlier you can get me the email version, the better. You must also copy in all members of your team on that email. Failure to meet deadlines will lower your grade for each part that is late.

Deadlines for the parts of the conference research paper assignments are as follows:

- **Part I:** February 11
- **Part II:** February 25
- **Part III:** March 11
- **Part IV:** March 18
- **Final Paper:** March 25

Funding for Travel to the AEJMC Conference:

In the event that your team's conference paper is accepted, I strongly encourage each member of your team to attend the conference. It is a great opportunity to see how the process works and to build your resume. In fact, it is required under AEJMC's rules that one author show up to present the paper.

To help you in this endeavor if your team's paper is accepted, the Marion B. Brechner First Amendment (which I direct) will reimburse each accepted-team member for up to \$400 in hotel (lodging) costs and up to \$400 in transportation costs (airfare). That's a total of up to \$800 per person and \$2,400 per team. Assuming that you are willing to split rooms, you shouldn't end up paying too much in out-of-pocket expenses for lodging. If your team's paper is not accepted, unfortunately the Project will not be able to cover any of your costs.

You will need to work closely and directly with Alex Wilkerson in the Knight Center on seeking reimbursement after your travel is completed.

Advice on Conference Research Paper:

- **Team Meetings:** You will be working as a member of a team, so you will need to plan times when all three members of your team can meet together. I strongly advise setting aside blocks of time now on your calendars for both February and March when you and your teammates can meet. If you wait until later to schedule blocks of time, I have no doubt that you will not be able find sufficient time when you all can meet. Like UPS, you need to be a master logistics to pull all of this off.

When you do meet, you might conduct research together, work on drafting new content, edit existing content and, perhaps most importantly, divvy up specific aspects of the workload among yourselves so that you all are on the same page and playing together.

- **Team Leaders:** Each team will have a team leader. The team leader will be the point person who will need to respond to any emails that I send within 24 hours, and who will be the person in charge of emailing to me the team projects (Parts I, II, III, IV and the final paper) before noon on the dates listed above on which they are due.

- **Read Examples of Conference Papers:** If you would like, I will email to you two examples of recent conference papers I and other students have written. When you read them, try to get a sense of the style and flavor of how to write a conference paper. Some of you already have been involved in working on papers and articles with me, so you will have an idea of how they look. Others will not have had this experience – for them it will be key to see what the finished product looks like and to see the big picture. It's all about modeling the format and style.

- **Work in .doc Format with Separate Files for Each Part:** Do each part separately in its own .doc-formatted file. The master file I will send to you will be in .doc format. After I have edited any part and email it back to you, you then can incorporate it into your master file. You won't send me the master file until Mar. 25.

- **Proof It Before You Send It:** Before sending me, for example, Part I of your conference research paper, I recommend that each team member proof reads it separately. In other words, three pairs of eyes should review and edit anything before it is sent to me.

- **Footnotes:** For almost every factual assertion, you will need a supporting footnote. Proper style is *The Bluebook*. You can mimic the *Bluebook* style of footnotes in my own conference papers to get a flavor for the style works.

Attendance:

Attendance is required and taken. You get one free absence. Missing more than one (1) class without an excused medical illness or true immediate family injury will result in your overall course grade being lowered by half a mark. For instance, an A Minus would be lowered to a B Plus, and B would be lowered to a B Minus. I must receive notice via email at least 24 hours in advance of any class that you foresee missing.

Grading:

Numerical grades translate to the following letter grades:

A 93 – 100	C+ 77 – 79	D- 60 – 62
A- 90 – 92	C 73 – 76	E 50 – 59
B+ 87 – 89	C- 70 – 72	
B 83 – 86	D+ 67 – 69	
B- 80 – 82	D 63 – 66	

Academic Integrity:

The Student Honor Code and The Honor Pledge are applicable to this class and are hereby incorporated by implication into all four examinations by this reference.

They can be found online at:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

Among others, key provisions are The Honor Pledge:

“We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code.”

On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied:

“On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.”

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:

Students with disabilities requiring accommodations should immediately contact the Disability Resource Center Office for complete information at:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/current.php>

All support services provided to and for University of Florida students are individualized to meet the needs of students with disabilities. To obtain individual support services, each student must meet with one of the support service coordinators at the Disability Resource Center and collaboratively develop appropriate support strategies. Appropriate documentation regarding the student's disability is necessary to obtain any reasonable accommodation or support service. Procedures for obtaining accommodations are set forth at:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/getstarted.php>

Please notify me on the first day of class if you require special accommodations.

Online Course Evaluations:

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

No Extra Credit:

There are no extra credit projects, papers or exams. Please do not ask for any extra credit work.

Addenda:

The professor reserves the right to make reasonable changes regarding the readings, assignments, grading structure and/or conference research paper at any time during the semester.