

Phil 28 Ethics & Society

Syllabus
Fall 2023
MW. 10:00 am-10:50 pm
Ledden Auditorium

Andy Lamey
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Office: RWAC 0491

Prof. Lamey Drop-in Hour: Mon. 11:00-11:50 am
Drop in-link: <https://ucsd.zoom.us/my/lameymeetingroom>

<i>Teaching Assistant</i>	<i>Email</i>	<i>Sections</i>
Aaron Chipp-Miller	achippmi@ucsd.edu	M 1:00 pm (A01)
Karina Ortiz Villa	kortizvilla@ucsd.edu	M 3:00 pm (A02)
Huadian Liu	hul010@ucsd.edu	Tu 5:00 pm (A03)
Joseph Martinez	jdm001@ucsd.edu	W 4:00 pm (A04) W 5:00 pm (A05)
Marcus McGahhey	mmcgahhey@ucsd.edu	Th. 6:00 pm (A06)

1. Overview

This class investigates philosophical questions related to free speech. The proper boundary of free expression is a perennial topic of controversy. We will begin by reading *On Liberty*, by John Stuart Mill, which has had an enormous impact on how people in the United States and elsewhere think about free speech. After reading another 19th-century author, Karl Marx, who was critical of the idea that there is a right to free speech, we will spend the rest of the class engaging contemporary authors and subjects, with a particular focus on speech issues online. In our final weeks we will watch the film *We Steal Secrets: The Story of Wikileaks*. The class assumes no background in philosophy and students who put in the necessary effort can do well.

2. Assessment

A 1,500-word essay due at 5:00 pm Tuesday October 24 (20%)

A 2,000-word essay due at 5:00 pm Tuesday November 21 (25%)

A 2,000-word word essay due 8:00 am Friday December 15 (25%)*

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

Reading Quizzes (10%) In-lecture Iclicker quizzes (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, as well as the course reader containing all other readings, are available at the bookstore.

Week One: Intro to Phil 28 and *On Liberty*

Mon: No reading.

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

Week Two: Mill cont.

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

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

Week Three: Mill and Marx

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

Wed: Karl Marx, On The Jewish Question, in Jeremy Waldron (ed.), *Nonsense Upon Stilts: Bentham, Burke and Marx on the Rights of Man* (London: Methuen, 1987), 137-50.

Week Four: 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.

First essay due 5:00 pm Tuesday October 24

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 Five: Social Media I

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

Wed: C. Thi Nguyen. How Twitter Gamifies Communication. In Jennifer Lackey (ed.), *Applied Epistemology* (Oxford: Oxford University Press 2021): 410-436.

Week Six: Social Media II

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

Wed: Mark Fisher. Exiting the Vampire's Castle. *Open Democracy*. November 24, 2013, 1-11.

Wed: Ralph DiFranco. I Wrote This Paper for the Lulz: the Ethics of Internet Trolling. *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, 23 (2020): 931-945.

Week Seven: Pornography and Shilling

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

Wed: Robert Mark Simpson and Eliot Michaelson. The Big Shill. *Ratio* 33/4 (2020): 269-280.

Week Eight: Hate Speech and Wikileaks

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

Second essay due 5:00 pm Tuesday November 21

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

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

Week Nine: Hate Speech and Wikileaks Cont.

Mon: Jeremy Waldron. The Appearance of Hate. *The Harm in Hate Speech*, 65-104.

Wed: *We Steal Secrets* cont.

Week Ten: Hate Speech and Wikileaks Cont.

Mon: Eric Barendt. What is the Harm of Hate Speech? *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice* 22 (2019): 539-553.

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* fin.

Exam-week essay due 8:00 am Friday December 15

4. General Information

Student Drop-in Hours

I am happy to meet with students on Zoom during my student drop-in hour. I am also available by appointment. I am 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 that arrive in the 24-hour period immediately preceding an exam (if this class has one).
- b) Requests to 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 a graduating senior 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 24 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 24 hours. Please note that if you receive an extension your paper may be returned a day 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.