

Com 307: Freedom of Expression and Cultural Production, Spring 2007
MWF: 11:00am-11:50am

Professor: Dr. Rebekah Farrugia

Office: Rm. 209, Sprau Tower

Email: rebekah.farrugia@wmich.edu (Please allow up to 24 hours for email response.)

Office Phone: (269) 387-3143

Office Hours: MW 12-1:50pm and by appointment

Teaching Assistant: Sarah Jones

Email:

Office Hours:

Course Overview

This course examines the meaning, scope, challenges, and limitations of “freedom of expression” in the American experience. Special attention is given to the intersections of freedom of expression, cultural production, copyright law and the Internet. International students and American students with knowledge of related traditions and practices from other parts of the world are encouraged to bring up non-American examples during class. You are also encouraged to discuss examples and class material on the discussion board available on WebCT.

Course Textbooks and other readings (all texts are required)

*You are expected to complete each day’s readings **before** class meetings on any given day.

1. Trager and Dickerson (1999). *Freedom of expression in the 21st century*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Pine Forge press.
2. McLeod, Kembrew. (2005) *Freedom of Expression*. Doubleday: New York. **Out of print. Obtain a used copy or download at kembrew.com/books**
3. Additional course readings will be made available through WebCT, e-reserve and other websites. The articles and/or information on where to find readings (ie, URLs) will be indicated on our class WebCT page. **You will need Adobe Reader 6.0 to view and print some of the articles.**

Student Advisory: Explicit Material

Any course on freedom of expression must at times refer to work, images, conduct and ideas that some people may find offensive. In class discussions of controversial issues involving freedom of expression and media texts we may at times examine materials or use language that you may find upsetting or offensive. Keep in mind that these are intended to illustrate educational points, not offend. However, if you are still uncomfortable, please feel free to see me in my office.

Course Objectives

1. An appreciation of arguments for maximum freedom of expression as well as arguments for limitations on the exercise of free speech, copyright, and creativity.
2. An understanding of the complexities of the intersections of copyright laws, new media technologies, and freedom of expression.
3. An understanding of legal and ethical considerations for analyzing freedom of expression as it relates to contemporary issues, texts, and cultural production.

WebCT

Regular access to WebCT is a requirement for this course. **You are required to check the course WebCT everyday for announcements, readings, and class schedule updates.** Because this is a large lecture class we will use WebCT on a regular basis. Many readings are located **only** online.

If the professor is ever ill or otherwise unable to attend class an announcement will be posted to WebCT as soon as possible.

About the Professor

Dr. Farrugia is an assistant professor in the School of Communication. She has a Ph.D. in Communication Studies with an emphasis on media studies from the University of Iowa. She teaches classes in media theory, criticism, and production. Her research focuses on popular music and digital culture.

Assignments

1. Examinations: There will be three exams, including a comprehensive final exam. All examinations will be composed of objective questions. You will be given a study guide for each exam. Below are the dates for the two in-class exams and the final exam date set by the university:

Exam 1 Feb 2th

Exam 2 Feb 28th

Exam 3 Apr 2nd

Final exam April 25th, 8:00am-10:00am

2. In-class writing assignments: You frequently will be asked to write short in-class papers that react to problems and issues raised by the readings assigned for that day or that assess your current understanding of course material. The professor or TA will summarize these assignments in class. These are unannounced, must be completed within a few minutes in class, and cannot be made up under any circumstances.

3. Reading quizzes: Reading quizzes will be given frequently in class as well. These will be in true-false format and will simply test that you did the assigned reading. The professor will go over the results immediately after the quiz is given. Your 10 highest scores (each quiz is worth 10 points) will be counted toward your course grade, up to 100 points total (the other scores will be dropped). Like the in-class writing assignments, these are unannounced, must be completed within a few minutes in class, and cannot be made up under any circumstances.

Grading

If you are interested in knowing the total points you have earned at any time during the semester please see me. I strongly encourage you to keep track of your points earned. Incompletes are only granted under *extreme* circumstances and cannot be given to prevent a failing grade.

Grade Breakdown

Exam 1	200 points	20%
Exam 2	200 points	20%

Exam 3	250 points	25%
Final Exam	250 points	25%
In-class writing points	50 points	5%
Reading quizzes	50 points	5%

Points will be deducted from your final grade for disruptive classroom behavior, including excessive talking.

The calculation of your letter grade will be based on the following scale used by the School of Communication.

100-93% or 1000-930 points	A
92-87% or 929-870 points	BA
86-83% or 869-830 points	B
82-77% or 829-770 points	CB
76-70% or 769-700 points	C
69-65% or 699-650 points	DC
64-60% or 649-600 points	D
59% and below or 599 points	E

Your responsibilities

Academic honesty and plagiarism

You are responsible for making yourself aware of and understanding the policies and procedures in the Undergraduate Catalogue (pp.268-271) that pertain to Student Academic Conduct. These policies include cheating (including helping someone else), fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity, and computer misuse. If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will be referred to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs. You will be given the opportunity to review the charge(s). If you believe you are not responsible, you will have the opportunity for a hearing. You should consult with me if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment or test.

Attendance and punctuality

You are expected to attend all classes on time. You will have a difficult time learning the material and understanding the pertinence of readings if you do not attend class regularly. Sometimes classes will explicitly cover the readers and at other times they won't.

Examination procedures

Exams will begin promptly at the beginning of class. On exam day, you need to bring a No. 2 pencil and a picture ID. All materials other than your pencil and exam must be removed from your desk once the exam has begun. No hats or coats can be worn during exams. You will be allowed to view your exam during the TA's or professor's office hours for only the period until the next exam.

Missed exams will be given a grade of zero unless you have made prior arrangements with the professor to reschedule a make-up exam **before** the exam date. **The TA cannot grant such approval.** The professor can be reached 24 hours a day by email at rebekah.farrugia@wmich.edu. Merely leaving or mailing a message does not mean your request to make up an exam has been approved. Every effort should be made to contact the professor before the exam.

Make up exams are only granted in extreme circumstances, such as serious illness, a death in the immediate family, travel on university-sponsored events or other unforeseen, difficult circumstances to be evaluated at the professor's discretion. You must **ALSO** provide verifiable documentation such as a doctor's note, court papers, an obituary, or a letter from a WMU faculty or staff member who supervises university-related travel. Job interviews and commitments, assignments/exams for other courses, personal travel, doctor's appointments, and oversleeping usually will not be considered legitimate reasons for missing an exam. Neither is not knowing the date of an exam. Make-up exams will be given before the next class meeting.

Classroom Conduct

Issues of freedom of speech are relevant to everyone. Even though this is a large class, you are expected to share your insights when appropriate. Everyone's perspectives and opinions are encouraged and appreciated. You are expected to be attentive and courteous at all times. That means: listening (not talking!) when others talk; waiting your turn to speak; refraining from ridiculing, attacking or making discriminatory remarks; and refraining from monopolizing discussion time. **Students reading newspapers, chatting, sleeping, yawning excessively, or engaging in otherwise distracting or disrespectful behavior will be asked to leave. All cell phones MUST be turned off in the classroom. Talking in class will not be tolerated under ANY circumstances. If you are caught talking you will be asked to leave the classroom for the remainder of the class period.**

Americans with Disabilities Act

Any student with a documented disability (e.g., physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) who needs to arrange reasonable accommodations must contact Ms. Beth Denhartigh at 387-2116 or email: beth.denhartigh@wmich.edu at the beginning of the semester. A disability determination must be made by that office before any accommodations are provided by the instructor.

Daily Schedule/ Readings Announced on WebCT

Spring 2007 3070 syllabus

Daily Schedule

Date	Topic	Readings Announced on WebCT
M Jan 8	Introductions	
W Jan 10 Memo to Brittany	What is free expression?	FOE prologue, Ch. 1 http://www.unsignedmysteries.com/usm381911.html
F Jan 12	John Stuart Mill, On Liberty, Part 1 and II	http://www.bartleby.com/130/
M Jan 15	NO CLASSES	
W Jan 17-19	JSM continued	
M Jan 22—W 24	FOE Ch. 2, Who controls expression?	
F Jan 26	FOE Ch. 3, Who Controls: Tyranny of the majority	
M Jan 29	FOE Ch. 4, What does FOE mean?	

- W Jan 31 FOE, Ch. 5, What speech...not be protected? (111-124)
 Police arrest anti-bush person for saying f-bush on sign
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=23QgunoRYxw>
- "Education Not Exploitation . . .Don't Play With Playboy" Protest Timeline"
 by Rebecca Whisnant & Vicki Behrens
<http://www.talkintrash.com/IMAGES/5images.html>
- F Feb 2 Exam #1**
- M Feb 5 FOE, Ch. 5, What speech...not be protected? (111-124)
 Police arrest anti-bush person for saying f-bush on sign
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=23QgunoRYxw>
- "Education Not Exploitation . . .Don't Play With Playboy" Protest Timeline"
 by Rebecca Whisnant & Vicki Behrens
<http://www.talkintrash.com/IMAGES/5images.html>
- Wed Feb 7 Ch. 5, pgs. 124-142
 Hate Speech & Campus Speech Codes
http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/speech/pubcollege/topic.aspx?topic=campus_speech_codes
 Hate Speech on Campus
<http://www.aclu.org/studentsrights/expression/12808pub19941231.html>
- F Feb 9 First Amendment Project: *No Joking* (screening)
- M Feb 12 FOE, Ch.6, Whose expression...not be protected?
- W Feb 14 Internet Censorship
<http://www.eff.org/Censorship/>
 China and Internet Censorship
<http://www.cnn.com/interactive/world/0603/explainer.china.internet/frameset.exclude.html>
- F Feb 16 Censorship & Music
 Nuzum's *Parental Advisory*, Ch. 1, 2 (e-reserve)
- M Feb 19 Nuzum continued
- W Feb 21 Censorship on the Airwaves
 Howard Stern & the FCC
<http://www.thesmokinggun.com/archive/0408043fcc1.html>
 Stern and the future of media censorship
<http://www.cato.org/tech/tk/041011-tk.html>
- F Feb 23 Pirate Radio
Rebels on the Air, Ch. 1, 9 (e-reserve)

Make Your Own Pirate Radio Station with an iPod

<http://www.engadget.com/2004/06/15/how-to-tuesday-make-your-own-pirate-radio-station-with-an-ipod/>

M Feb 26	Pirate Radio continued/ Exam Review
W Feb 28	Exam #2
F Mar 2—F Mar 9	No Classes
M Mar 12	Censorship & the MPAA
The Roots of Ratings	http://xrl.us/c4yd
Official Code Objectives (1968)	http://teaching.arts.usyd.edu.au/history/hsty3080/3rdYr3080/3080site/the code
It's time to give the ratings system an X-hit	http://xrl.us/c4x8
Do movie ratings work?	http://xrl.us/c4yf
<i>This Film is Not Yet Rated:</i> http://www3.ifctv.com/thisfilm/about.php	
W Mar 14	FOE Ch. 7, The right not to speak?
F Mar 16	FOE & Copyright Law, McLeod, Read Introduction First Amendment Project: <i>Fox vs. Franken</i>
M Mar 19	Intro to copyright law
W Mar 21	McLeod, Ch. 1, p. 13-36
F Mar 23	McLeod, Ch. 2: This is a Sampling Sport (62-77) How Copyright Law Changed Hip Hop http://www.stayfreemagazine.org/archives/20/public_enemy.html
M Mar 26	<i>Copyright Criminals</i> (screening)
W Mar 28	McLeod, Ch. 2: Art meets the law (77-85)
F Mar 30	Exam Review
M Apr 2	Exam #3
W Apr 4	McLeod, Ch. 3: Illegal Art (114-127) Barbie in a Blender http://barbieinablender.org/
F Apr 6/M 9	McLeod, Ch. 3 (pgs. 127-147) http://www.illegal-art.org/ (browse site)
W Apr 11	<i>Superstar: The Karen Carpenter Story</i> (screening)
F Apr 13	McLeod, Ch. 3: Sound Collage Artists, mash ups (147-170)

M Apr 16 McLeod, Ch. 5 (225-249)

W Apr 18 McLeod, Ch. 6 (270-296)

F Apr 20 So what do I do about it?
<http://www.stayfreemagazine.org/archives/20/take-action.html>

 An Alternative to full copyright
<http://creativecommons.org/learn/licenses/comics1>
FOE Epilogue

W Apr 25 Final Exam 8:00-10:00am