

Eastern Illinois University
Course Proposal
EIU 4197G, Freedom of Expression: Dissent, Hate and Heresy, Honors

1. Catalog Description

- a. EIU 4197G Honors
- b. Freedom of Expression: Dissent, Hate and Heresy, Honors
- c. Credit 4-0-4
- d. Term to be offered:
- e. Free Expressi Hon
- f. Course Description: Examination of history, philosophy, theory, legal rights, constraints and ethical responsibilities regarding free expression, principally in the United States. This civil liberty will be considered in the context of its application to and effect on different societal groups based on social and political status, gender and race.
- g. Prerequisites: 75 semester hours and admission to University Honors Program.
- h. Course is writing intensive

2. Student Learning Objectives

- a. In accordance with the goals of general education, students will:
 - 1. Develop, refine and improve writing skills
 - 2. Analyze issues critically and develop coherent and cogent arguments on controversial issues
 - 3. Engage in dialogue about issues pertaining to free speech
 - 4. Express in written and oral forms their synthesis of the essential arguments surrounding free speech issues.
 - 5. Learn to analyze their own views in light of readings and discussion in order to make informed civic and personal decisions
- b. Additional learning objectives:
 - 1. To develop an understanding of the historical and philosophical antecedents of freedom of expression in the United States
 - 2. To increase student knowledge of the issues and argumentative strategies offered by current controversies surrounding free speech issues
 - 3. To develop a awareness of ethical considerations facing communicators
 - 4. To expose students to implications of changing communication technology

3. Course Outline

Argument and Critical Thinking	Weeks 1-2
Propositions	
Types of Arguments	
Fallacies of Argument	
The Role of Evidence	
Refuting Arguments	
Providing Feedback	
Historical Antecedents	Weeks 3-4
Historical Origins, Evolution of Concepts of Free Expression	
Free Expression: Orientation and Definition	
Free Expression: Historical Perspectives	

Free Expression in America	Weeks 5, 6, 7
Incitement, Sedition and National Security	
Provocation to Anger	
Hate Speech, Symbolic Expression	
Constraints on Expression	Weeks 8, 9, 10, 11
Defamation, Libel, Privacy	
Moral Heresy/Obscenity	
Time, Place and Manner	
Symbolic Expression	
Assessment Activities	Week 12
Technology and Expression	Week 13
New media	
Evolving media	
Student Presentations	Weeks 14-15

4. Evaluation: Achievement of student learning will be evaluated based on the following:

- a. Evaluation:

Written assignments	25 percent
Exams	30 percent
Current events quizzes	10 percent
Portfolio Paper	35 percent
- b. At least one writing-intensive assignment is to be revised by the student after it has been read and commented on by the instructor. This will comprise 35 percent of the students' final grade..

5. Rationale

- a. General Education: Senior Seminar
- b. Prerequisites: 75 semester hours and admission to University Honors Program
- c. This course does not duplicate any other course offerings
- d. Course will not be required in any majors or programs other than general education senior seminar

6. Implementation

- a. Faculty members to whom this course can be assigned: Dr. Douglas Bock, Dr. Les Hyder, Dr. Terry Perkins, Dr. James Tidwell
- b. Texts
 - Fraleigh, Douglas M. and Tuman, Joseph S. (1997) *Freedom of Speech in the Marketplace of Ideas*. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin's.
 - Leone, Bruno (1994) *Free Speech*. San Diego, CA: Greenhaven Press.
 - Walker, Samuel (1995) *Hate Speech: A History of an American Controversy*. Lincoln, NE: University of Nebraska Press.
 - Supplemental readings will be assigned from current periodicals
- c. There will no additional costs.
- d. Course will first be offered:

7. Community College Transfer: A community college course will not be judged equivalent to this course.

8. Dates of Approval:

Department: April 5, 2000

College Curriculum Committee: May 3, 2000

Senior Seminar Advisory Committee

Honors Council

Council on Academic Affairs: October 19, 2000

9. Contact: Terry Perkins, 217-581-6964, cftmp, or Les Hyder, 581-7110, cflrh