Freedom of Speech  
Professor Wells


For the first day of class (1/16), we will spend some time discussing the format of the class, the course requirements, and going over any questions you may have.

There is a course website on TWEN for which you should all register. The syllabus, class handouts, slides and daily reading assignments such as this one will be posted there.

As for the reading on 1/16 (which may spill over into our 1/18 class), it is primarily background for the questions “Why, when and/or should we protect speech?” Consider a few things as you do the reading:

1. What does the First Amendment actually say? Does that help us know when to protect speech and when to regulate it?
2. What historic events shaped our understanding of the First Amendment and why are they important to our modern understanding of the first amendment?
3. When you read the values underlying the First Amendment that are laid out in the reading, can they possibly explain why we protect speech in all circumstances? Do they even explain how to craft rules regarding protecting speech or expression?
4. What is “speech” for purposes of constitutional protection?