



COM 429: Freedom of Expression® Final Examination

Dr. Carroll, Spring 2010

Preface: As the syllabus states, my goals in this course were for you to demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of the:

- First Amendment and its role in society
- the legal and philosophical principles underlying the freedom of expression
- the scope and applicability of the First Amendment "free speech" clause, including freedom of expression on the Internet
- the lawful limits on freedom of expression
- the tensions in society, law and policy that challenge the First Amendment's vitality
- and the importance of research for adding new knowledge

Given how much ground we covered, and given the achievement of 60 Minutes of Freedom, I consider our joint **Freedom of Expression®** project a success. But the learning hasn't stopped. I want to hear from you, in your own words, what you've learned and how you've learned it. Please take this seriously. I do. Thoughtful, honest responses result in wonderful, GPA-related things!

1. What did you learn? Please be as specific and as comprehensive as you can. I expect to see about five double-spaced pages on this, so think hard about this, consult your notes, your readings, and maybe do some light outlining before you respond.
2. How did you learn these things? Please be as specific and as comprehensive as you can. Think about the different ways or channels or modes of learning we used in the course – debate, video, readings, LOTS of discussion, application, research, the assignment submission and grading process, and more.
3. What could be done to improve the course, to make it better? The course isn't scheduled to be offered again, but I'm confident that it will. And be reasonable, please. Some things, of course, I cannot change.
4. What definitely should NOT be changed?
5. Notice I asked what you learned FIRST. (Do not let your parents ask you what grade you got until and unless they ask, "What did you learn?") Now,

I ask you what grade you feel you **earned** in this course? I do not mean the grade you think you will get based on graded work handed back. I mean what grade you feel **you earned with your efforts?** Give me at least a paragraph explaining and justifying your answer. *I can be persuaded.*

If you were often late and/or absent, or often distracted doing other, non-class-related things, you aren't eligible for an "A," so don't go there. If you never said anything in class, similarly, you are not eligible for an "A."

Type up and submit your answers no later than Monday, May 3, at 5 pm (in my office or in my mail slot in the COM office. Of course, you can submit earlier if you wish.