



# CSCI 215

# **Social and Ethical Issues in**

# **Computer Science**

freedom of the press

deep fake news



# Intro

- recitation week 8
- How's the paper going? Due Thursday
- How is the class going? Any changes you want to talk about?
- drone article



# Freedom of the Press

The right to publish newspapers, magazines, and other printed matter without governmental restriction and subject only to the laws of libel, obscenity, sedition, etc. (dictionary.com)

sedition - conduct or speech inciting people to rebel against the authority of a state or monarch.



# First Amendment Protection

- **Amendment I.** Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

The First Amendment guarantees freedoms concerning religion, expression, assembly, and the right to petition. It forbids Congress from both promoting one religion over others and also restricting an individual's religious practices. **It guarantees freedom of expression by prohibiting Congress from restricting the press or the rights of individuals to speak freely.** It also guarantees the right of citizens to assemble peaceably and to petition their government.



# Freedom of the Press

- Our liberty depends on the freedom of the press, and that cannot be limited without being lost," Thomas Jefferson wrote to a friend in 1786.

**Why do we need freedom of the press?**



# From ACLU.org

- The freedom of the press, protected by the First Amendment, is critical to a democracy in which the government is accountable to the people. A free media functions as a watchdog that can investigate and report on government wrongdoing. It is also a vibrant marketplace of ideas, a vehicle for ordinary citizens to express themselves and gain exposure to a wide range of information and opinions.



What has changed with press  
freedoms due to the arrival of the  
internet?



# Freedom of the Press

- In a Gallup Poll last October, only 45% of Americans had a high degree or a fair amount of trust in the news media to fairly report the news.

**Why? What does computer technology have to do with this low percentage?**



# Freedom of the Press

- accuracy vs speed to get news to the people
  - how did the internet change this?



# Freedom of the Press

- Consider affairs of the presidents past and present
  - John F Kennedy - <https://medium.com/history-of-yesterday/john-f-kennedy-affairs-ab4dee24a5db>
  - Bill Clinton -  
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/3792069?seq=1>
  - [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clinton%E2%80%93Lewinsky\\_scandal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Clinton%E2%80%93Lewinsky_scandal)
- What made the news about these affairs different?
- Why?



# Freedom of the Press

- Is it ethical for the president to ask others to boycott a news network?
- Is it ethical for a news network to show bias against a political party or a particular candidate/politician?