

Free Speech: Trigger Warnings, Academic Freedom, and More

By:

Institute for Humane Studies

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Chapter 1

Why Should We Care About Free Speech?¹

Figure 1.1: "Freedom of Speech: Is Offensive Speech Good For Society?" by the Institute for Humane Studies

Description

Professor Tom W. Bell of Chapman University argues that freedom of expression is important because it allows people to voice unpopular and controversial opinions.

1.1 Discussion Questions

Do you believe that counter demonstrations will be strong and responsive enough?

Exercise 1.1

(Solution on p. 2.)

Why does Professor Bell argue against censoring offensive speech?

- a. All opinions equally valid.
- b. Free speech is a God-given right.
- c. Speech that authorities once tried to censor has contributed immeasurably to our culture.
- d. The First Amendment requires that the government promote all kinds of speech equally.

¹This content is available online at <<http://cnx.org/content/m66236/1.2/>>.

Solutions to Exercises in Chapter 1

Solution to Exercise 1.1 (p. 1)

- c. Speech that authorities once tried to censor has contributed immeasurably to our culture.

Chapter 2

Introduction to Offensive Speech and Hate Speech¹

Figure 2.1: "Offensive Speech, Hate Speech, and Censorship" by the Institute for Humane Studies

Description

Professor Tom W. Bell of Chapman University introduces the concepts of offensive speech and hate speech.

¹This content is available online at <<http://cnx.org/content/m66225/1.1/>>.

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Chapter 3

Charlie Hebdo and Offensive Speech¹

Figure 3.1: "Blasphemy and Hate Speech" by the Institute for Humane Studies

Description

Greg Lukianoff of George Mason University and the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education argues that media censorship and hate speech laws escalated attacks against offensive speech like the attack on Charlie Hebdo.

3.1 Discussion Questions

Professor Lukianoff argues that hate speech laws signal to people that there is a right not to be offended. Do you believe there is a right not to be offended? Why or why not? How do hate speech laws influence people's reactions to offensive speech?

¹This content is available online at <<http://cnx.org/content/m66208/1.1/>>.

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Chapter 4

Trigger Warnings and Freedom From Speech¹

Figure 4.1: "Trigger Warnings & Freedom FROM Speech" by the Institute for Humane Studies

Description

Greg Lukianoff of George Mason University and the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education explains the impact of trigger warnings and attempts to disinvite speakers have had on college campuses.

Exercise 4.1

(Solution on p. 8.)

Why is Professor Lukianoff concerned about trigger warnings?

- a. He is concerned that they do not do enough to protect students suffering from PTSD.
- b. He is concerned that faculty
- c. He is concerned that they have been taken too far and are being used to prevent any controversial topic from being discussed in the classroom.

¹This content is available online at <<http://cnx.org/content/m66235/1.1/>>.

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Solutions to Exercises in Chapter 4

Solution to Exercise 4.1 (p. 7)

c. He is concerned that they have been taken too far and are being used to prevent any controversial topic from being discussed in the classroom.

Chapter 5

Censoring Sex and Comedy¹

Figure 5.1: "Freedom of Speech: Why Are Sex and Comedy Censored?" by the Institute for Humane Studies

Description

Greg Lukianoff of George Mason University and the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education warns that we should not censor speech that we find offensive because what society considers offensive versus liberating is constantly changing.

5.1 Discussion Questions

Why do you think censorship has swung to students requesting it rather than parents/authorities? Do you think this pattern will continue?

Exercise 5.1

(Solution on p. 10.)

Why should obscene and offensive speech not be restricted?

- Only some find it offensive.
- What was used to censor one group today could be used to censor a different group tomorrow.
- What is considered offensive today might not be in the future.
- All of the above.

¹This content is available online at <<http://cnx.org/content/m66207/1.2/>>.

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Solutions to Exercises in Chapter 5

Solution to Exercise 5.1 (p. 9)

- d. All of the above.

Chapter 6

How Free Speech Is Threatened Today¹

Figure 6.1: "How Free Speech Is Threatened Today" by the Institute for Humane Studies

Description

Greg Lukianoff of George Mason University and the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education explains where and how free speech is being threatened around the world today and why it's worth fighting for.

6.1 Discussion Question

How have free speech rights been violated in your country? In your own life? Do you think those restrictions are justified? Why or why not?

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Chapter 7

Introduction to Commercial and Persuasive Speech¹

Figure 7.1: "Commercial and Persuasive Speech" by the Institute for Humane Studies

Description

Professor Tom W. Bell of Chapman University introduces two types of speech that are frequently threatened: commercial speech and persuasive speech.

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Chapter 8

Political Speech¹

Figure 8.1: "Political Speech" by the Institute for Humane Studies

Description

Paul Sherman of the Institute for Justice explains how political speech has been threatened in recent years.

8.1 Discussion Questions

The Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United vs. the Federal Election Commission* upheld the rights of corporations and unions to spend money on political speech. Do you think that corporations and unions have First Amendment rights? Why or why not?

Is money a form of speech? Why or why not?

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Chapter 9

Commercial Speech¹

Figure 9.1: "Commercial Speech" by the Institute for Humane Studies

Description

According to Paul Sherman of the Institute for Justice, commercial speech has traditionally been treated as outside the scope of the First Amendment.

Exercise 9.1

(Solution on p. 18.)

By restricting commercial speech the government has categorized commercial speech along with what other types of speech?

- a. Obscene and lewd.
- b. Hateful and offensive.
- c. Defamation and fraud.
- d. Libel and slander.

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Solutions to Exercises in Chapter 9

Solution to Exercise 9.1 (p. 17)

c. Defamation and fraud.

Chapter 10

Introduction to Free Speech in Education¹

Figure 10.1: "Free Speech in Education" by the Institute for Humane Studies

Description

Professor Tom W. Bell of Chapman University introduces issues related to free speech on college campuses.

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Chapter 11

Academic Freedom- What It Is and Why It Matters¹

Figure 11.1: "Academic Freedom: What It Is & Why It Matters" by the Institute for Humane Studies

Description

Will Creely of the Foundation for Individual Rights of Education defines academic freedom and explains why it's crucial for creating a true environment for learning.

Exercise 11.1

(Solution on p. 22.)

The goal of academic freedom is to protect

- a. faculty's job security.
- b. the university's administration from frivolous lawsuits.
- c. the rights of students and faculty to research, teach, debate, and discuss ideas without outside interference or censorship.

¹This content is available online at <<http://cnx.org/content/m66199/1.1/>>.

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Solutions to Exercises in Chapter 11

Solution to Exercise 11.1 (p. 21)

c. the rights of students and faculty to research, teach, debate, and discuss ideas without outside interference or censorship.

Chapter 12

Campus Speech Codes and Zones¹

Figure 12.1: "Campus Speech Zones & Codes" by the Institute for Humane Studies

Description

Samantha Harris of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education explains two of the main tactics universities use to restrict free speech of students on campus.

12.1 Discussion Questions

How does your university censor free speech? Do they employ speech codes or free speech zones? Do you think that your university's policies violate or are consistent with the First Amendment? Why or why not?

¹This content is available online at <<http://cnx.org/content/m66237/1.1/>>.

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Chapter 13

The History of Free Speech On Campus Litigation¹

Figure 13.1: "The History of Free Speech On Campus Litigation" by the Institute for Humane Studies

Description

Azhar Majeed of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education gives an overview of some of important court cases defending free speech on college campuses.

Exercise 13.1

(Solution on p. 26.)

The most common type of university speech code that the free speech advocates fight against is the:

- a. defamation policy.
- b. harassment policy.
- c. offensive speech policy.
- d. sexist speech policy.

¹This content is available online at <<http://cnx.org/content/m66234/1.1/>>.

Solutions to Exercises in Chapter 13

Solution to Exercise 13.1 (p. 25)

- b. harassment policy.

Chapter 14

The "Stand Up for Speech" Litigation Project¹

Figure 14.1: "Is There Freedom Of Speech In College?" by the Institute for Humane Studies

Description

Catherine Sevchenko of George Mason University explains how the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education is fighting back against free speech violations on college campuses.

Exercise 14.1

(Solution on p. 28.)

Free speech on campus litigation often targets public universities because

- a. public universities violate free speech more often than private universities.
- b. public universities have more money.
- c. private universities are easier to target.
- d. public universities are bound by the First Amendment.

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Solutions to Exercises in Chapter 14

Solution to Exercise 14.1 (p. 27)

- d. public universities are bound by the First Amendment.

Chapter 15

Does Free Speech Help Minorities?¹

Figure 15.1: "Does Free Speech Help Minorities?" by the Institute for Humane Studies

Description

According to Ari Cohn of the Foundation for Individual Rights in Education, a frequent argument used against free speech is that minorities and marginalized people should be protected from hate speech. Cohn argues that free speech is actually one of minorities' greatest weapons against oppression. What do you think? Does free speech help or harm minorities? How?

15.1 Discussion Questions

Summarize Ari Cohn's definition of "liberal science." Do you think it would help minorities, as Cohn does?

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Keywords are listed by the section with that keyword (page numbers are in parentheses). Keywords do not necessarily appear in the text of the page. They are merely associated with that section. *Ex.* apples, § 1.1 (1) **Terms** are referenced by the page they appear on. *Ex.* apples, 1

- A** academic freedom, § 4(7), § 10(19), § 11(21), § 12(23)
advertising, § 9(17)
- B** blasphemy, § 3(5), § 6(11)
- C** campaign finance, § 8(15)
censorship, § 4(7), § 8(15), § 15(29)
charlie hebdo, § 3(5)
chilling effect, § 12(23)
citizen united, § 8(15)
commercial speech, § 7(13), § 9(17)
- F** first amendment, § 2(3), § 6(11), § 7(13), § 8(15), § 11(21), § 12(23), § 13(25), § 14(27)
flemming rose, § 3(5)
free speech, § 1(1), § 2(3), § 3(5), § 4(7), § 5(9), § 6(11), § 7(13), § 8(15), § 9(17), § 10(19), § 11(21), § 12(23), § 13(25), § 14(27), § 15(29)
free speech on campus, § 10(19), § 13(25), § 14(27)
free speech zone, § 13(25), § 14(27)
free speech zones, § 12(23)
freedom of expression, § 1(1)
- H** harassment policy, § 13(25)
- hate speech, § 1(1), § 2(3), § 3(5), § 6(11), § 15(29)
- L** law, § 13(25)
lecture, § 1(1), § 2(3), § 3(5), § 4(7), § 5(9), § 6(11), § 7(13), § 8(15), § 9(17), § 10(19), § 11(21), § 12(23), § 13(25), § 14(27), § 15(29)
- M** marginalized people, § 15(29)
minority, § 15(29)
- O** offensive speech, § 1(1), § 2(3), § 3(5), § 5(9)
- P** persuasive speech, § 7(13)
political correctness, § 5(9)
political speech, § 8(15)
- S** salman rushdie, § 3(5)
speech code, § 13(25)
speech codes, § 12(23)
- T** tinker v. des moines, § 14(27)
trigger warnings, § 4(7)
- V** video, § 1(1), § 2(3), § 3(5), § 4(7), § 5(9), § 6(11), § 7(13), § 8(15), § 9(17), § 10(19), § 11(21), § 12(23), § 13(25), § 14(27), § 15(29)

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Free Speech: Trigger Warnings, Academic Freedom, and More

Have you ever wondered if Free Speech has its limits? Well, this is the place for you. You've got freedom of speech, but you're not free to shout fire in a crowded theater? What about hate speech? Triggering speech? In this online course, we dive deep into topics related to free speech. Topics include speech restrictions on college campuses, the Charlie Hebdo massacre, and the use of free speech by oppressed groups to change the world.

About OpenStax-CNX

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