



Take-home examination

Autumn 2009

JOUR4330- Freedom of expression- discourses, principles and practices

Hand out Monday November 23. at 10.00.

Hand in Thursday November 26. by 14.00 in Fronter (<https://blyant.uio.no>).

Answer one of the three following questions:

I

In Freedom of Expression. A Critical and Comparative Analysis, Vincenzo Zeno-Zencowich raises the following questions in relation to rules regulating expression on the Internet (p. 108)

- a) Are there grounds which would require or favour applying different forms for protection, be it stronger or weaker, in situations where certain interests were harmed through new technologies?
- b) What might be the features of a differentiated regime?

Discuss these issues.

II

As a conclusion to his article "The Right to Ridicule" (*The New York Review of Books* Volume 53, Number 5 · March 23, 2006) Ronald Dworkin wrote.

"It is often said that religion is special, because people's religious convictions are so central to their personalities that they should not be asked to tolerate ridicule of their beliefs, and because they might feel a religious duty to strike back at what they take to be sacrilege. Britain has apparently embraced that view because it retains the crime of blasphemy, though only for insults to Christianity. But we cannot make an exception for religious insult if we want to use law to protect the free exercise of religion in other ways. If we want to forbid the police from profiling people who look or dress like Muslims for special searches, for example, we cannot also forbid people from opposing that policy by claiming, in cartoons or otherwise, that Islam is committed to terrorism, however misguided we think that opinion is. Certainly we should criticize the judgment and taste of such people. But religion must observe the principles of democracy, not the other way around. No religion can be permitted to legislate for everyone about what can or cannot be drawn any more than it can legislate about what may or may not be eaten. No one's religious convictions can be thought to trump the freedom that makes democracy possible."

Use this quote as a background to discussing the relationship between cultural conflicts and freedom of expression.

III

Discuss the relationship between the right to privacy and the media's exercise of freedom of expression.

Helge Rønning is available for questions on e-mail helge.ronning@media.uio.no on Monday November 23.

The exam should be written in English. The submitted paper may be up to 10 pages (one page is calculated to 2300 characters without spaces). For more information about exams at IMK, see

<http://www.media.uio.no/studier/eksamen/eksamensinformasjon/engelsk/generalhandin.html>

The examination results will be published in StudentWeb December 18. 2009. The results will not be given by telephone or e-mail.