

Plan for the semester: JOUR4330 – Spring 2019

NB: the following is *provisional* – i.e., subject to change depending on class progress, interests, and the possible emergence of relevant events we may choose to also explore.

Preliminary introduction: the course is structured to move between (a) the more philosophical, legal, historical, cultural, and other principles, norms, backgrounds, and so on, relevant to freedom of the press and freedom of expression, and (b) specific, real-world examples of events and experiences involving threats to freedom of the press and freedom of expression, especially as involving and/or reported by working journalists.

The large goal of the structure is thus to help us better understand how specific examples and cases (b) and the larger principles, norms, etc. (a) mutually reflect and/or illumine one another in the on-going developments of freedom of expression and freedom of the press, both nationally (e.g., the cases of Norway and Tanzania) and internationally (e.g., the cases of the Mohammed Cartoons, Charlie Hebdo, etc.) – especially vis-à-vis the dramatic decline in freedom of expression worldwide over the past six years (see “The Rise of Digital Authoritarianism,” one of our first readings – March 4).

Qualification task, term paper

The primary obligatory qualification task – i.e., the task you must complete in order to be allowed to turn in the **term paper** – is an in-class presentation, currently scheduled for **March 20 and 25**: see below. As noted, your choice of a given example *can* lead directly towards your identifying the **topic(s), research question(s), etc.** that you will take up in the **term paper**. But you are also welcome to change your mind regarding the example for your term paper as we explore further in the course readings.

You are expected to work on the term paper for ca. 2 months prior to its due date – June 6, 2019, 11.00. This means starting up during the week of **April 8-12, 2019**.

You may also choose to have a 30-minute **individual supervision** regarding your term paper.

Appointments for individual supervision will be scheduled during the first and second weeks of May.

You are strongly encouraged to submit a first draft of your paper via email to me the day before your supervision appointment. If you do not have a draft, sending along at least notes, an outline, and possible resources will be necessary for a fruitful individual supervision.

Provisional Schedule

(1) March 4: Freedom of Expression – First Historical / Philosophical / Media Perspectives and Overview

Readings:

Freedom on the Net. 2018. The Rise of Digital Authoritarianism. (PDF)

Nigel Warburton, *Free Speech: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford University Press, 2009), Chapters 1 (“Free speech”, pp. 1- 21) and 2 (“A free market in ideas?” pp. 22-41).

Helge Rønning, The Contemporary Challenge to the Concept of Universal Human Rights and Freedom of Expression. In: Anine Kierulf and Helge Rønning (eds.), *Freedom of Speech Abridged? Cultural, Legal and Philosophical Challenges*, pp. 9-19. (Göteborg: Nordicom, 2009).

(2) March 6: Free Speech Debates: A web-based approach

Exercise / preparation.

1. Go to <<http://freespeechdebate.com/en/>> and begin by reviewing the ten principles listed there. Consider: which of these would you endorse? Which of these might you qualify, or perhaps reject? And: what additional principles, if any, might you suggest?

2. Review the list of case-studies provided under <freespeechdebate.com/en/casestudies/>. Pick one that seems especially interesting and relevant from your perspective.

Be prepared to introduce the case during class discussion, meaning, be ready to offer: a summary of the elements of the case;

an identification of the most important freedom of expression principles that are at work in this case – specifically, what details of the case implicate or invoke these principles?

and: what is your considered view as to how the case should be resolved? (This means you will need to be ready to offer one or more *arguments* in support of your view, and/or one or more *critiques* of alternative views.)

(3) March 13: “Harmful content” in an online world?

Mini-case study: Facebook, the “napalm-girl”, and the power of Norway vs. Mark Zuckerberg
Readings: Warburton, ch. 4, “Censoring pornography,” pp. 59-80; ch. 5, “Free speech in the age of the Internet,” pp. 81-95.

Sam Levin, Julia Carrie Wong, and Luke Harding. Facebook backs down from 'napalm girl' censorship and reinstates photo. *The Guardian*, Friday 9 September 2016 18.44 BST.

<<https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/sep/09/facebook-reinstates-napalm-girl-photo>>

(4) March 18: “Offense” and Freedom of Speech

Readings: Nigel Warburton, *Free Speech*, ch. 3, “Giving and Taking Offence” (pp. 42-58); Brian Winston, *a right to offend* (London: Bloomsbury, 2012). [see “Winston 2012 - selections.pdf”]

Part One: Prosecution (pp. 1-31)

4.1 *Defence of the Seven Sacraments against Martin Luther* (1521): For a right of conscience and a right to publish (pp. 36-45)

(5) March 20: First turn to issues and case studies for in-class presentation

Review: individual contributions to “Threats to Freedom of the Press: Control, Surveillance and Censorship” and “Reporting War and Conflict: Safety and Civil Rights,” in Ulla Carlsson (ed.), *Freedom of Expression and Media in Transition: Studies and Reflections in the Digital Age* (Göteborg: Nordicom, 2016), pp. 101-152, 155-196.

Students will select one of these that seems of interest for developing into the subject of an in-class presentation. At the same time, this initial presentation can be the occasion for beginning to identify the primary topic(s), research question(s), etc. that you will pursue in your **term paper**.

(**NB:** we are scheduled to read the opening article in “Threats to Freedom of the Press: Control, Surveillance and Censorship” [Heikki Heikkilä. *Canaries in the Coalmine*.... pp. 101-106] on **April 16** [see below]. Please choose from any of the remaining articles in these two sections.)

In-class presentations I

(6) March 25: In-class presentations II

(7) March 27: Additional perspectives: philosophy

Readings:

Ulf Petäjä, What is the Value of Freedom of Speech? In Kierulf and Rønning (2009), pp. 23-34;

Cathrine Holst and Anders Molander, Freedom of Expression and Freedom of Discourse: Examining a Justificatory Strategy. In Kierulf and Rønning (2009), pp. 23-34.

(8) April 1: Additional perspectives: law

Readings:

Anine Kierulf, International Challenges to National Law: Media Free Speech in Norway. In Kierulf and Rønning (2009), pp. 53-65.

Oluf Jorgensen, The Right to Privacy and Public Figures: On the Limits to Freedom of Expression. In Kierulf and Rønning (2009), pp. 67-77.

Thomas Bull, Freedom of Expression in Sweden: The Rule of Formalism. In Kierulf and Rønning (2009), pp. 79-92.

(9) April 3: Additional perspectives: Globalization and Cultural Perspectives

Readings:

- Joachim Hammerlin, Anti-Terror Surveillance and Freedom of Expression. In Kierulf and Rønning (2009), pp. 95-104.
- Arne Ruth, Twenty Years On: The Lessons of the Fatwa against The Satanic Verses. In Kierulf and Rønning (2009), pp. 105-114.
- Frederik Stjernfelt, Pressure on Press Freedom: The Current Religious War on Freedom of Expression. In Kierulf and Rønning (2009), pp. 129-137.
- Risto Kunelius, Lessons of Being Drawn In: On Global Free Speech, Communication Theory and the Mohammed Cartoons. In Kierulf and Rønning (2009), pp. 139-151.

(10) April 8: Contemporary perspectives: freedom of expression post-Charlie Hebdo

Readings:

- Ulla Carlsson, Freedom of Expression and the Media in a Time of Uncertainty: A brief introduction. In Ulla Carlsson (ed.), *Freedom of Expression and Media in Transition: Studies and Reflections in the Digital Age* (Gøteborg: Nordicom, 2016), pp. 9-16.
- Trine Syvertsen, Gunn Enli, Ole J. Mjøs & Hallvard Moe, The Media Welfare State: Nordic media in times of change. In Carlsson (2016), p.19-26.
- Minna Aslama Horowitz and Hannu Nieminen, Communication Rights and Public Service Media: Changing ecosystems, changing 'publicness'. In Carlsson (2016), pp. 27-32.

(11) April 10: Contemporary perspectives: Freedom of Expression, Media and the Public Sphere I

Readings:

- Risto Kunelius, Free Speech at an Intersection: Notes on the contemporary hybrid public sphere. In Carlsson (2016), pp. 35-42.
- Helge Rønning, On Press Freedom and Other Media Freedoms. In Carlsson (2016), pp. 43-51.
- Maria Edström and Eva-Maria Svensson, Trust and Values for Sale: Market-driven and democracy-driven freedom of expression. In Carlsson (2016), pp. 67-74.

(12) April 24 :

A) Contemporary perspectives: Freedom of Expression, Media and the Public Sphere II

Readings:

- Astrid Gynnild, Three Dilemmas of Visual News Coverage. In Carlsson (2016), pp. 75-81.
- Ullamaija Kivikuru, Media Freedoms in Changing Frames: Tanzania under a magnifying glass. In Carlsson (2016), pp. 83-89.
- Nicola Lucchi, Digital Media Pluralism: The need for global strategies. In Carlsson (2016), pp. 91-98.

B) Threats to Freedom of the Press: Control, Surveillance and Censorship / Reporting War and Conflict: Safety and Civil Rights (Carlsson 2016, pp. 101-196).

Readings:

- Heikki Heikkilä. Canaries in the Coalmine: Why journalists should be concerned by privacy. In Carlsson (2016), pp. 101-106.

Closing discussion; course evaluation.