

FIRST AMENDMENT (PROF. BAMBERGER)**Course Background**

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Course Meeting Times: Mon & Wed, 11:20-12:35, Boalt Hall 132

Introduction

This course will cover complicated issues at the core of our the meaning of our democracy through the study of the First Amendment to the US Constitution, which protects the right to free expression and a free press, prohibits governmental establishments of religion, and guarantees the free exercise of religion.

The course will focus on applying doctrine to problems arising at cutting-edge of expressive and religious freedom.

Reading Materials

The casebook for this course is: Volokh, The First Amendment and Related Statutes: Problems, Cases and Policy Arguments, 4th Edition. From time to time, cases and other materials outside the casebook will be assigned, by means of the course bSpace page, or in-class distribution, or e-mail.

Schedule of Classes

In general, we will meet on Mondays and Wednesdays from 11:20 a.m. to 12:35 p.m., in Room 132. I will begin promptly and do my best to end promptly. Please arrive on time.

Course Expectations and Class Participation

The First Amendment class relies significantly on class discussion to clarify and understand complicated doctrine. Accordingly, class attendance is mandatory. Each student should participate in class, as an active listener and contributor. I will call on students in every class, primarily through a panel system. The class will be divided into panels; one panel will be “on call” each week, beginning Wednesday, January 18. Each student will be on panel approximately four weeks of the semester.

You are encouraged to volunteer answers (when I seek volunteers) and to ask questions. You should come to class even if you are unprepared (which, obviously, you should strive to avoid). If you would prefer that I not call on you on a particular day (because you are not prepared or for any other reason), you should let me know prior to the beginning of class. This option should be used sparingly, if at all. If you need to miss class, please email me.

Grading

Your final grade will be based in large part on your performance on an in-class final examination, modified at the margins by performance in class.

Actual or constructive failure to attend class will result in a substantial penalty, and may result in a determination that you have not satisfactorily completed the requirements of the course.