To My Dear Students:

This semester we will focus on two areas: (a) The First Amendment; and (b) Imminent Doom (?). I’m including the second not because it necessarily belongs alongside issues of speech and religion, but because it is so important, so crucial, that I feel professionally and morally compelled to include it. By **Imminent Doom** I mean the alarming state of our government, and the possible (if not probable) destruction of our democracy. (I’m also including this subject because whenever I am tempted to despair, as I am right now, you, my dear students, buoy my spirits; your optimism and creative insights remind me that there is still hope.

On a more prosaic topic: we’ll all be wearing masks again this semester and sitting as far apart from one-another as space will allow. As I discovered during the Fall term, however, we can still get to know one-another: Whenever we want, we can also meet, individually or in small groups, in my office or over coffee at Starbuck’s.

**Course Requirements:**
There will be two mid-term exams (the second one is optional), a final exam, and two short papers from those of you who need WI credit. It is crucial that you attend class regularly, and students will be docked one grade point for every three absences (GRR-r-r-r)

**Grading:** (a) two mid-term exams (one optional): 30%; (b) participation and preparedness: 30%; (c) final exam: 40%

**Required Reading**
*One: Civil Liberties* casebook (available on-line; book is not mandatory since assigned cases are available on line)


**WRITING INTENSIVE**: This a Writing Intensive class, so I will require two short papers from you (unless you’ve already fulfilled your WI requirements). Since the best way to improve your writing is to revise and revise again, I’ll read each paper, return it for revisions, and then read it again. I’ll talk to you early in the semester about your topics. and offer you suggestions as we go along.

**Tracking me Down**: I’ll have Office Hours after class on Mondays and Wednesday from 11:30 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. (and by appointment) in my office---Hill Hall, Room 725. You can also e-mail me: eahull47@hotmail.com. Remember, when you seek me out you’re not inconveniencing me: getting to know you and assisting you in any way I can is my pleasure.

**ONE: OUR COUNTRY IS IN PERIL**

**Read**: Snyder, *On Tyranny*; Anderson, *One Person, No Vote*  
- [The AtlanticHow Donald Trump Could Subvert the 2024 Election - The Atlantic](https://www.theatlantic.com), Jan, 2022

**Note Re Briefing**: You will not be responsible for briefing all the cases I list below (wipe those tears!); the ones I eventually assign will depend upon the pace of our discussions.

**FEC; Shaw v. Reno; Shelby County v. Holder; N.C. v. Covington. Brnovich v. Democratic National Committee; Americans for Prosperity Foundation v. Bonta; Benisk v. LamoneAbbott; PerezHusted v. A. Philip Randolph Institute; Rucho v. Common Cause.**

**Mid-term exam**

**First Papers Due**

**TWO: Freedom of Speech**


**THREE: Religious Exercise and Establishment**

**Read: Ray Ginger, Six Days or Forever**


**OPTIONAL MID-TERM**

**Second Paper Due**

**FOUR: Freedom of the Press**

**FIVE**: Freedom of Assembly and Petition


**SIX**: Obscenity

**Brief**: Garcelli v. Ceballas; Regina v. Hicklin; Roth v. U.S/; The Fanny Hill Case; Miller v. Ca.

**SEVEN**: On-Line Mischief

**Read**: Marantz, Anti-Social: Online Extremists, Techno-Utopians, and the Hijacking of the American Conversation

**Brief**: Brown v. Entertainment Merchants; U.S. v. Williams; Van Buren v. U.S.; Apple v. FBI; Elonis v. U.S.

**FINAL EXAM (YIPPEE)**