It’s Not Fair! So many things we love and depend upon also have their downsides: The Internet opens the world to us, but also subjects us to hate speech and fake news. Facebook and Instagram and Tweeter keep us connected with people all over the world—but also mean that any silly or embarrassing or provocative thing we’ve ever done or said can never be forgotten—it’s stored up in the clouds for all of eternity. We’re living at a time when we can be straight or gay or bi or trans---but as a consequence we’re also subjected to all sorts of new (and not-so-new) forms of discrimination. (What’s a person to do?)

In this class we’re going to discuss ways our rights can be balanced, technology tamed, our freedoms enjoyed without forfeiting our privacy. You’re going to brief Supreme Court cases, read several books and lots of articles, write two short papers (this being a Writing Intensive class, after all), and deliver brief presentations to your lucky classmates. You’re going to love every minute!

Assigned Reading:


Hetherington & Weiler, Prius or Pickup? How the Answers to Four Simple Questions Explain America’s Great Divide Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2018


Grading

Class participation and attendance...  20%
Assigned Writing.............................30%
Mid-term Exam................................20%
Final Exam ....................................30%

DO’S AND DON’TS: Attendance is absolutely crucial, and you’ll be docked a full grade for every three absences. Also, if you use your cell phones during class I’ll...well, let me just say you’ll be sorry...

WHERE TO FIND ME: I’ll be in my office (Hill 725) every Tuesday and Thursday from 11:30 - 1:00 Please drop by whenever you have a question or just want to chat. You can also reach me via e-mail: eahull47@hotmail.com, or by phone: (973) 353-5171.
CALM DOWN: When preparing this syllabus I got a bit carried-away (knowing your insatiable appetite for supplemental reading), and I ended-up assigning hundreds (thousands?) of cases and articles. You will be responsible for only a handful in each category; the rest are just for your reading enjoyment.

SCHEDULE:

**Part one: First Amendment: speech**

READ: Rosenwald, *Talk Radio's America: How an Industry Took Over a Political Party that Took Over the United States*


Assigned Reading [https://truthout.org/articles/assanges-indictment-treats-journalism-as-a-crime/](https://truthout.org/articles/assanges-indictment-treats-journalism-as-a-crime/)


*New York Times*, Dec. 5, 2019: “Freedom of expression is at a ten-year low, study says”

*New York Times*, Nov. 10, 2019; *The Unlikely Birth of Free Speech* - [https://nyti.ms/2NUOPYj](https://nyti.ms/2NUOPYj)


*TIME* October 21, 2019, “How to rethink whistleblowing for today’s post-truth world”


*NYT Mag* November 15, 2019 The Future of the Internet

Subject: History will put this up there with McCarthyism and internment camps


First Amendment: Religion


https://www.alternet.org/2019/12/the-seeds-of-theocratic-authoritarianism-are-being-planted/

FIRST AMENDMENT : FREEDOM OF THE PRESS & PORNOGRAPHY

Read: Inside the Pentagon Papers


Supreme Court Issues Decision On Key Whistleblower Rights ... https://www.whistleblowers.org/news/supreme-court..

First paper due:

FREEDOM OF ASSEMBLY AND TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT


Time, gentlemen: when will the last all-male clubs admit ... https://www.theguardian.com/.../time-gentlemen-when-will-last-all-male-clubs-admit-women
MID-TERM EXAM

Part Two: PRIVACY

Read: The Sodomy Cases

Individual presentations begin


Assigned reading: New York Times, August 13, 2019: “The Privacy Project: The health data you didn't know you were sharing;”


The Washington Post Nov.5, 2019, “The Internet is tilting toward tyranny”

“The Privacy Project: What we’ve learned (so far)”

New York Times, June 17, 2019 “In Stores, Secret Bluetooth Surveillance Tracks Your Every Move;”


New York Times, May 1, 2019 “Would You Let the Police Search Your Phone? -

NYTimes.com, April 11, 2019, “The privacy you’re sacrificing for convenience”

OPTIONAL MID-TERM EXAM

Second paper due:

PART THREE: Discrimination on the Basis of Sex and Sexual Orientation

Read: Richards, The Sodomy Cases

https://www.romper.com/p/these-states-reportedly-ban-lgbtq-couples-from-adopting-the...


Time, June 16, 2019 ; “The U.K. Has Banned 'Harmful' Gender Stereotypes In Adverts
“https://time.com/5607209/uk-gender-stereotypes-adverts/


https://www.wnycstudios.org/story/nancy-podcast-word-queer-allusionist

TIME, November 17, 2019; “This isn't just about a pronoun. Teachers and trans students are clashing over whose rights come first.”


The Washington Post :Nov. 4, 2019; “Monkey Cage: Was Rep. Katie Hill held to a higher standard than men in Congress? This research suggests she was.”

Sam Baker, May 24, 2019: “Axios Scoop: Trump's plan to let adoption agencies reject same-sex parents

Final Exam