

Professor David Primo
Harkness Hall 318
david.primo@rochester.edu
<http://www.rochester.edu/College/PSC/primo>

Spring 2022, Mon. 2:00 – 4:40 PM
Classroom: Meliora 206
Office Hours (Zoom): Tues. 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM or by appt.
Office Hours Link: <https://rochester.zoom.us/j/948872840>

PSCI 232/PSCI 232W: Disagreement in a Democratic Society

This Version: April 4, 2022

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Is consensus overrated? In this seminar course we will study the role of disagreement in a democratic society. Topics will

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (cont.)

Complete a project (proposals due on Blackboard by 7 PM on March 1; required peer group workshops will take place the week of April 18, with a brief follow up survey that should be completed on Blackboard by April 25 at 8 AM; projects due via email by 7 PM on May 3).

- Students are required to complete a project on a topic of their choosing. Possible project formats include a traditional, 3,500 word research paper or a non traditional approach such as a writing a set of op eds related to the themes of the course. (W students must complete a project with 3,500 words of writing.)
- The project format and topic must be approved by Professor Primo. Professor Primo will tailor his guidance and project requirements to the specifics of the proposals.
- In an effort to encourage students to make progress on their papers well in advance of the deadline, in lieu of class on April 18, students will instead participate in a peer group workshop in which students will meet in small groups to offer feedback on each other's projects. Participation in the workshop is required and will be part of your project grade.
- Additional details regarding this requirement are available in a separate Project Guidelines document available on Blackboard.
- The bottom line: this project should be one that you are invested in and are excited about. Professor Primo will be there to help along the way.

GRADING

Conversation starters count toward 20% of your course grade. Conversation starters will be graded on a credit/no credit basis. Questions that are submitted without an explanation or with an explanation that fails to demonstrate a connection to the readings will receive no credit. You can receive credit for a conversation starter even if you do not attend class, so long as it is submitted on time. Following the "life happens" rule, you may skip two conversation starters without penalty.

Class participation counts toward 20% of your course grade. Students are expected to do the reading in advance of class and come prepared for discussion. Students should "take ownership" of the seminar by sharing their ideas, asking questions, challenging each other's ideas (and those of Professor Primo), and keeping up with the news to participate in the "current events" portion of class discussion. *Class attendance factors into class participation. However, please do not come to class if you are not feeling well or it would present a hardship to do so; just give Professor Primo advance notice when possible.*

The project counts toward 60% of your course grade. 5% of your course grade is based on fulfilling all aspects of required participation in the workshop. 55% of your course grade is based on the final project submission. Additional details regarding the grading of the workshop and the project are available in a separate Project Guidelines document available on Blackboard.

PROFESSIONALISM

Professor Primo strives to create a professional atmosphere in class where all are treated with respect. To help achieve this goal, please

- make every effort to attend and be on time for each class meeting
- silence mobile phones and other electronic devices
- keep texting and other non course related activities to a minimum
- come to class prepared to engage with others and be open to perspectives that may differ from your own.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Note: Topics are subject to change as the course evolves. Readings will go on Blackboard one week in advance of each class meeting. Conversation starters are due by 8AM on the day of class for weeks 2-11.

Date	Topic
1. January 24	Introduction and Course Preliminaries
2. January 31	Foundations
3. February 7	Elite Political Polarization
4. February 14	Mass Political Polarization
5. February 21	Higher Education I: The Campus Speech Climate
6. February 28	Higher Education II: DEI vs. (?) Free Speech
March 1 @ 7 PM	Project topics due on Blackboard
7. March 14	Higher Education III: Scientific Advancement
8. March 21	Disagreement in the Workplace
9. March 28	Disagreement, Diversity, and Innovation
10. April 4	Disagreement Around the World
11. April 11	Disagreement: A How To
12. Week of April 18	Peer Group Workshops (in lieu of class meeting)
13. April 25	Course Wrap Up (Post workshop survey due April 25 @ 8AM on Blackboard)
May 3 @ 7 PM	Final projects due via email

READINGS

January 31: Foundations

- Mill, John Stuart. 1859. *On Liberty*, ch. 2
- Stanley, Jason. 2018. *How Fascism Works* New York: Random House, excerpt.
- Orwell, George. 1946. "Politics and the English Language." *Horizon*, April.
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- Gibson, James L., and Joseph L. Sutherland. 2021. "Keeping Your Mouth Shut: Spiraling Self Censorship in the United States." Working Paper.
- Knight Foundation. 2022. "Free Expression in America Post 2020."
- Rasmussen Reports. 2022. "COVID 19: Democratic Voters Support Harsh Measures Against Unvaccinated."
- Optional: Edsall, Thomas. 2022. "America Has Split, and It's Now in 'Very Dangerous Territory.'" *New York Times*, January 26.

February 21: Higher Education I—The Campus Speech Climate

Placing Current Debates into Historical Context

- Chemerinsky, Erwin, and Howard Gillman. 2017. *Free Speech on Campus*. New Haven: Yale University Press, excerpt.
- Lukianoff, Greg, and Jonathan Haidt. 2015. "The Coddling of the American Mind." *The Atlantic* 316(2):42-52.
- Lukianoff, Greg. 2022. "The Second Great Age of Political Correctness." *Reason*, January.
- Optional: Gonzales, Richard. 2014. "Berkeley's Fight for Free Speech Fired Up Student Protest Movement." *NPR*, October 5.
- Optional: Fuller, Thomas. 2017. "A Free Speech Battle at the Birthplace of a Movement at Berkeley." *New York Times*, February 2.

The Chicago Principles

- Background on the Chicago Principles (skim web page).
- The Chicago Principles.
- Ben Porath, Sigal. 2018. "Against Endorsing the Chicago Principles." *Inside Higher Ed*, December 11.

Survey Says...

- College Pulse/FIRE/RealClear Education. 2021. "College Free Speech Rankings."
- Knight Foundation. 2022. "College Student Views on Free Expression and Campus Speech 2022."
- Sachs, Jeffrey Adam. 2018. "There Is No Campus Free Speech Crisis: A Close Look at the Evidence." Niskanen Center.
- Wilson, John K. 2022. "The Inevitable Problem of Self Censorship." *Inside Higher Ed*, January 11.
- Optional: Rothschild, Neal. 2021. "Young Dems More Likely to Despise the Other Party." *Axios*

February 28: Higher Education II—DEI vs. (?) Free Speech

- Whittington, Keith. 2019. "Free Speech and the Diverse University." *Fordham Law Review* 87(6):2453-2477.
- Baer, Ulrich. 2019. *What Snowflakes Get Right*. New York: Oxford University Press, excerpt.
- Kronman, Anthony. 2019. "The Downside of Diversity." *Wall Street Journal*, August 2.
- Diversity Statements in the University of California system
 - Jerry Coyne's discovery that diversity statements are used to screen out job candidates out in the UC system
 - UC Berkeley's Rubric for Assessing Candidate Contributions to Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging
- Campus Controversies
 - Anderson, Greta. 2020. "Hand Delivered Hate or Free Speech Exercise?" *Inside Higher Ed*

Free Inquiry and Free Speech

Scholars at Risk. 2021. "Free to Think 2021." Report of the Scholars at Risk Academic Freedom Monitoring Project.
Wiike, Richard, and Katie Simmons. 2015. "Global Support for Principle of Free Expression, but Opposition to Some Forms of Speech." Pew Research Center Report.

April 11: Disagreement—A How To

What Scholarship Tells Us

Brooks, Arthur C. 2019. *Love Your Enemies: How Decent People Can Save America from Our Culture of Contempt*. New York: Broadside Books, ch. 8.
Grant, Adam. 2021. *Think Again: The Power of Knowing What You Don't Know*. New York: Viking, ch. 8.
Hartman, Rachel, et al. 2022. "Interventions to Reduce Partisan Animosity." Preprint.
Podcast: Ted Radio Hour on NPR featuring Adam Grant.

What Is Happening On Campus and Off

Bennett, Jessica. 2020. "What if Instead of Calling People Out, We Called Them In?" *New York Times*, November 19.
Miller, Jennifer. 2022. "What College Students Really Think About Cancel Culture." *The Atlantic*, February 4.

How to Guides and Organizations Committed to Bridging Divides

Here are several short guides from various organizations about having difficult conversations. Look for commonalities!

- Heterodox Academy
- OpenMind (try to do the simulation!)
- Listen First Project
- Institute for Humane Studies

Here are four organizations which have or will host events with the explicit goal of having difficult conversations. Just glance at each webpage to get a sense of the approaches (and again, commonalities).

- America in One Room
- America Talks
- Braver Angels
- Crossing Party Lines

ADDITIONAL COURSE POLICIES

Intellectual Property

No photography, video recording, or audio recording of any kind. No sharing of content on social media or recording devices.