

Free Speech Issues Questionnaire

COMM 491 Results - Spring 2012

Below are statements concerning freedom of expression. On the line to the left of each statement indicate the degree to which you agree or disagree with the statement using the following scale.

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|
| 5 = Totally AGREE | 4 = Moderately AGREE | 3 = Don't know or uncertain |
| 2 = Moderately DISAGREE | | 1 = Totally DISAGREE |

Average

| 2.73 | 1. Freedom of expression should be denied to those who abuse it. | <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Response #</th> <th>5s</th> <th>4s</th> <th>3s</th> <th>2s</th> <th>1s</th> </tr> <tr> <td># of students</td> <td>2</td> <td>8</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> <td>8</td> </tr> </table> | Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | # of students | 2 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 8 |
|---------------|--|--|------------|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|---|----|----|---|----|
| Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | | | | | | | | | |
| # of students | 2 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 8 | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.07 | 2. Highly explicit sexual materials, whether visual or verbal, should be banned by the government. | <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Response #</th> <th>5s</th> <th>4s</th> <th>3s</th> <th>2s</th> <th>1s</th> </tr> <tr> <td># of students</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>8</td> <td>11</td> </tr> </table> | Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | # of students | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 11 |
| Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | | | | | | | | | |
| # of students | 2 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 11 | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.07 | 3. Radical Muslims, Nazi's and Ku Klux Klansmen should have the same free speech rights as other citizens. | <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Response #</th> <th>5s</th> <th>4s</th> <th>3s</th> <th>2s</th> <th>1s</th> </tr> <tr> <td># of students</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>8</td> <td>7</td> <td>2</td> </tr> </table> | Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | # of students | 4 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 2 |
| Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | | | | | | | | | |
| # of students | 4 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 2 | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.30 | 4. Violent crime should be punished more seriously if the perpetrator has expressed a racially biased motive. | <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Response #</th> <th>5s</th> <th>4s</th> <th>3s</th> <th>2s</th> <th>1s</th> </tr> <tr> <td># of students</td> <td>2</td> <td>12</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </table> | Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | # of students | 2 | 12 | 5 | 6 | 1 |
| Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | | | | | | | | | |
| # of students | 2 | 12 | 5 | 6 | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.80 | 5. College teachers should be free to advocate any viewpoints they wish in class as long as these ideas are relevant to the topic of the course. | <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Response #</th> <th>5s</th> <th>4s</th> <th>3s</th> <th>2s</th> <th>1s</th> </tr> <tr> <td># of students</td> <td>9</td> <td>8</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </table> | Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | # of students | 9 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 1 |
| Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | | | | | | | | | |
| # of students | 9 | 8 | 5 | 3 | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| 3 | 6. Freedom of speech in the U.S. should only be granted to U.S. citizens. | <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Response #</th> <th>5s</th> <th>4s</th> <th>3s</th> <th>2s</th> <th>1s</th> </tr> <tr> <td># of students</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>8</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </table> | Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | # of students | 5 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 5 |
| Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | | | | | | | | | |
| # of students | 5 | 4 | 8 | 4 | 5 | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.65 | 7. Speech that is deeply offensive to ethnic, religious or other identifiable groups or individuals should be restricted or punished by government or other public institutions such as colleges in some situations. | <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Response #</th> <th>5s</th> <th>4s</th> <th>3s</th> <th>2s</th> <th>1s</th> </tr> <tr> <td># of students</td> <td>1</td> <td>7</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </table> | Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | # of students | 1 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | | | | | | | | | |
| # of students | 1 | 7 | 6 | 6 | 6 | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.69 | 8. The government has the right to control the opinions expressed by government employees on the job or when they might be perceived to be representing the government. | <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Response #</th> <th>5s</th> <th>4s</th> <th>3s</th> <th>2s</th> <th>1s</th> </tr> <tr> <td># of students</td> <td>0</td> <td>7</td> <td>10</td> <td>3</td> <td>6</td> </tr> </table> | Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | # of students | 0 | 7 | 10 | 3 | 6 |
| Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | | | | | | | | | |
| # of students | 0 | 7 | 10 | 3 | 6 | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.88 | 9. If the government pays for legal, medical or other services, the government should be able to control what kind of advice and opinions are expressed by lawyers, doctors or other professionals in such interactions. | <table border="1"> <tr> <th>Response #</th> <th>5s</th> <th>4s</th> <th>3s</th> <th>2s</th> <th>1s</th> </tr> <tr> <td># of students</td> <td>0</td> <td>3</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>14</td> </tr> </table> | Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | # of students | 0 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 14 |
| Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | | | | | | | | | |
| # of students | 0 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 14 | | | | | | | | | |

| 3.65 | 10. Censorship is a serious restriction on artistic freedom. | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response #</th> <th>5s</th> <th>4s</th> <th>3s</th> <th>2s</th> <th>1s</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td># of students</td> <td>9</td> <td>4</td> <td>8</td> <td>5</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | # of students | 9 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 0 |
|---------------|--|---|------------|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|----|----|----|---|----|
| Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | | | | | | | | | |
| # of students | 9 | 4 | 8 | 5 | 0 | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.19 | 11. People who only criticize and don't offer solutions are abusing the right to free expression. | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response #</th> <th>5s</th> <th>4s</th> <th>3s</th> <th>2s</th> <th>1s</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td># of students</td> <td>2</td> <td>12</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>3</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | # of students | 2 | 12 | 4 | 5 | 3 |
| Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | | | | | | | | | |
| # of students | 2 | 12 | 4 | 5 | 3 | | | | | | | | | |
| 1.76 | 12. Schools should not be permitted to allow the presentation of materials favorable to homosexuality or other lifestyles unacceptable to some parents. | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response #</th> <th>5s</th> <th>4s</th> <th>3s</th> <th>2s</th> <th>1s</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td># of students</td> <td>0</td> <td>1</td> <td>6</td> <td>6</td> <td>14</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | # of students | 0 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 14 |
| Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | | | | | | | | | |
| # of students | 0 | 1 | 6 | 6 | 14 | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.76 | 13. Ethical lawyers will only defend clients who they believe are innocent. | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response #</th> <th>5s</th> <th>4s</th> <th>3s</th> <th>2s</th> <th>1s</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td># of students</td> <td>1</td> <td>6</td> <td>10</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | # of students | 1 | 6 | 10 | 4 | 5 |
| Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | | | | | | | | | |
| # of students | 1 | 6 | 10 | 4 | 5 | | | | | | | | | |
| 4.5 | 14. On a college campus, any viewpoint or information should be allowed to be discussed as long as the discussion is not violent or disruptive to normal school activities. | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response #</th> <th>5s</th> <th>4s</th> <th>3s</th> <th>2s</th> <th>1s</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td># of students</td> <td>13</td> <td>13</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> <td>0</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | # of students | 13 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | | | | | | | | | |
| # of students | 13 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.26 | 15. If the government determines that national security is threatened, it should be allowed to punish dissent and disagreement believed to be harmful to the country. | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response #</th> <th>5s</th> <th>4s</th> <th>3s</th> <th>2s</th> <th>1s</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td># of students</td> <td>0</td> <td>12</td> <td>10</td> <td>3</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | # of students | 0 | 12 | 10 | 3 | 1 |
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| # of students | 0 | 12 | 10 | 3 | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.15 | 16. Libraries should make records of who requests what materials to the public and make them available to government investigators. | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response #</th> <th>5s</th> <th>4s</th> <th>3s</th> <th>2s</th> <th>1s</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td># of students</td> <td>0</td> <td>4</td> <td>7</td> <td>4</td> <td>11</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | # of students | 0 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | | | | | | | | | |
| # of students | 0 | 4 | 7 | 4 | 11 | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.38 | 17. If there is the possibility that audience members may become violent as a result of what a speaker may say, it is acceptable to require cancellation of the speech. | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response #</th> <th>5s</th> <th>4s</th> <th>3s</th> <th>2s</th> <th>1s</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td># of students</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>7</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | # of students | 2 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 7 |
| Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | | | | | | | | | |
| # of students | 2 | 2 | 7 | 8 | 7 | | | | | | | | | |
| 2.84 | 18. There should be stricter limits on what the press reports about before and during criminal trials. | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response #</th> <th>5s</th> <th>4s</th> <th>3s</th> <th>2s</th> <th>1s</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td># of students</td> <td>5</td> <td>1</td> <td>10</td> <td>5</td> <td>5</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | # of students | 5 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 5 |
| Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | | | | | | | | | |
| # of students | 5 | 1 | 10 | 5 | 5 | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.5 | 19. The best way to deal with offensive or dangerous ideas is to get respected people to speak out and refute those ideas. | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response #</th> <th>5s</th> <th>4s</th> <th>3s</th> <th>2s</th> <th>1s</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td># of students</td> <td>3</td> <td>13</td> <td>5</td> <td>4</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | # of students | 3 | 13 | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | | | | | | | | | |
| # of students | 3 | 13 | 5 | 4 | 1 | | | | | | | | | |
| 3.46 | 20. Corporations should have the same rights to free expression as individual citizens in all matters, including donating money to campaigns and buying advertising in order to influence elections. | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Response #</th> <th>5s</th> <th>4s</th> <th>3s</th> <th>2s</th> <th>1s</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td># of students</td> <td>4</td> <td>8</td> <td>11</td> <td>2</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | # of students | 4 | 8 | 11 | 2 | 1 |
| Response # | 5s | 4s | 3s | 2s | 1s | | | | | | | | | |
| # of students | 4 | 8 | 11 | 2 | 1 | | | | | | | | | |