SOCI-356 Syllabus

Censorship & Silencing
341 King Building
MW 15:30-16:20 (+ M 18:00 videos)
http://www.smiials.net/yopezps/blog/

SOCI-356

Daniel John Steward
305-C King Building
F 10:00-16:00 (Azariah's Cafe)
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Description

We will open with a study of the liberal orthodoxy regarding freedom of expression and the problem of state censorship. We will then turn to various heterodoxies that challenge the conventional wisdom: problems of media concentration and non-state censorship; the problem of silencing via hate speech; etc. We will also address the ways that technology enables and constrains practices of censorship and silencing.

Requirements & Grades

Students are expected to attend class regularly, to participate actively and courteously, to abide by the rules of Oberlin College (especially the Honor Code), and to follow the instructions of Mr. Steward.

Students should purchase the following texts:


These texts, together with various other printed texts, films, recordings, and other media (referred to generally as "texts") will be assigned and made available during the term. Students should engage these texts critically, assessing their validity against personal experience, common sense, and the methods of research and interpretation modeled by the sociologists and other scholars who authored these texts. Various exercises may be assigned from time to time over the course of the term to guide students in practices of research, writing, oral presentation, and critical interpretation. Such exercises may take the form of homework, in-class assignments, or small group projects. As a general rule, these exercises will not be graded; they may, however, be converted into graded assignments (e.g., pop quizzes) if and when this seems pedagogically appropriate to the instructor.

Each student will be evaluated (also known as "graded") on the basis of his/her: class participation and term paper. Details will be discussed in class.
**Weekly Schedule**

- **2008.02.04** — **2008.02.10 (Week 01)**
  - *Getting Started*
  - Atkins & Mitcheva pp. vii-x, xv-xxiv
  - Stone pp. 3-14

- **2008.02.11** — **2008.02.17 (Week 02)**
  - *Getting Started*
  - Fish, Stanley. 1994. "There's No Such Thing as Free Speech, and It's a Good Thing, Too."

- **2008.02.18** — **2008.02.24 (Week 03)**
  - *From the English Civil War to the American Civil War*
  - Milton, John R. *Areopagitica* (skim)
  - Stone pp. 16-134

- **2008.02.25** — **2008.03.02 (Week 04)**
  - *World Wars*
  - Stone pp. 136-310
  - Chafee, Zechariah, Jr. 1919. "Freedom of Speech in Wartime"

- **2008.03.03** — **2008.03.09 (Week 05)**
  - *The Cold War*
  - Stone pp. 312-526
  - Meiklejohn, Alexander. (Selections from *Political Liberty.*)

- **2008.03.10** — **2008.03.16 (Week 06)**
  - *The War on Terror*
  - Stone pp. 528-558
  - Other Readings TBD.

- **2008.03.17** — **2008.03.23 (Week 07)**
  - *Economics and Market-Censorship*
  - Atkins & Mintcheva pp. 3-87

- **2008.03.24** — **2008.03.30 (Week 08)**
  - Spring Break!

- **2008.03.31** — **2008.04.06 (Week 09)**
  - *The Internet*
  - Atkins & Mintcheva pp. 91-164

- **2008.04.07** — **2008.04.13 (Week 10)**

**Key Dates**

- **2008.02.11:** Good Night and Good Luck
- **2008.02.13:** Add/Drop Deadline
- **2008.02.25:** U.S. v. John Lennon
- **2008.03.10:** Shut Up and Sing
- **2008.03.21:** Rough Drafts Due
- **2008.03.31:** Outfoxed
- **2008.04.03:** Midterm Grades on PRESTO
- **2008.04.07:** P/NP, CR/NE, W/draw Deadline
- **2008.04.21:** This Film Is Not Yet Rated
- **2008.05.05:** The People v. Larry Flynt
- **2008.05.09:** Papers Due
- **2008.06.02:** Final Grades on PRESTO
- *Protecting Children*
- Atkins & Mintcheva 167-247

    - *Cultural Diversity and Hate Speech*
    - Atkins & Mintcheva pp. 251-295
    - Butler, Judith. 1997. "Sovereign Performatives in the Contemporary Scene of Utterance"

  - 2008.04.21 — 2008.04.27 (Week 12)
    - *Self-Censorship*
    - Atkins & Mintcheva 299-346
    - LeGuin, Ursula. (Selected lectures and essays.)

  - 2008.04.28 — 2008.05.04 (Week 13)
    - *Discussion of Student Papers*

  - 2008.05.05 — 2008.05.11 (Week 14)
    - *Discussion of Student Papers*

  - 2008.05.12 — 2008.05.18 (Week 15)
    - *Discussion of Student Papers*