

***A (Highly Incomplete) List of Reading Recommendations for Teaching Free Speech***  
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Introductions to Free Speech

Bonotti, Matteo and Jonathan Seglow. "Freedom of Expression." *Philosophy Compass* 16, 7 (2021).

- Useful and accessible overview of the main philosophical justifications for freedom of speech, some useful free speech history, and an overview of contemporary issues (like regulation of pornography, hate speech, and fake news).

Greenawalt, Kent. "Free Speech Justifications." *Columbia Law Review* 89, 1 (1989): 119-55.

- A far more detailed introduction to various rationales that have been put forward to justify treating freedom of speech as a special right. A nice blend of philosophy and law, and a good introduction to many key texts and ideas about free speech from both disciplines.

Cose, Ellis. *The Short Life and Curious Death of Free Speech in America*. New York: HarperCollins. 2021.

- An accessible introduction to the history of free speech in the U.S., including the history of racial injustice in the application of free speech protection. Chapters from this book work can be used to give a general introduction to U.S. free speech history and/or a history of racism (especially anti-Black racism) in U.S. free speech history.

Nossel, Suzanne. *Dare to Speak: Defending Free Speech for All*. New York: HarperCollins. 2020. Chapter 20, "Know the Case for Free Speech."

- This short, accessible (strongly pro-free-speech) final chapter of the book provides six rationales for protecting free speech (including the three major lines in the philosophical literature).

Rosenberg, Ian. *The Fight for Free Speech: Ten Cases that Define our First Amendment Freedoms*. New York: New York University Press. 2020.

- Useful for pairing important concepts and issues related to free speech with vivid accounts of the stories of various U.S. Supreme Court cases and various contemporary controversies.

Satta, Mark. "Free Speech." *1000-Word Philosophy*. 2021.  
<https://1000wordphilosophy.com/2021/02/04/free-speech/>

- For what it's worth, I plan on updating this entry at some point because I think, in its current form, it focuses too heavily on the U.S. perspective and on free speech as a legal protection rather than as a political value too. Still, I think this provides a useful introduction for students of the basics of how legal protection of free speech works in many nations and an introduction to the philosophical foundations of free speech rights. And it has the virtue of being short.

Maitra, Ishani and Mary Kate McGowan. "Language and Free Speech," in *The Routledge Handbook of Social and Political Philosophy of Language*. 2021.

- An excellent introduction to the intersection of philosophy of language and free speech. (This is the first reading in my free speech unit in Philosophy of Language.)

Greene, Jamal. *How Rights Went Wrong: Why Our Obsession with Rights is Tearing Us Apart*. Mariner Books. 2021. Chapter 9, "Campus Free Speech."

- Helps motivate the case that freedom of speech is not an absolute right, gives a good overview of various legal issues related to free speech, and introduces valuable questions and common-sense views about campus free speech issues.

Srinivasan, Amia. *The Right to Sex: Feminism in the Twenty-First Century*. Farrar, Straus, and Giroux. 2021. Chapter 2, "Talking to My Students About Porn."

- An accessible historical and philosophical overview of the debates about pornography and free speech from the 1980s and beyond in the U.S. Provides all the context needed to make these debates relevant for students today.

Brison, Susan. "The Autonomy Defense of Free Speech." *Ethics* 108, 2, (1998): 312-339

- Provides a useful overview and critique of various autonomy-based defenses of free speech. Also usefully connects to debates about free speech and hate speech. This is a denser and longer article than my other recommendations in this section, but very useful for more advanced undergraduate courses where one is looking to get into the details of autonomy defenses of free speech.

### Historical Readings

- Milton, John "Areopagitica" 1644. (Both my students and I find this one to be a real slog. Thus, my preferred method is to just provide select quotes from the text and have students read and discuss those.)
- Mill, John Stuart. *On Liberty*. 1859. Chapter 2.

- Douglass, Frederick. “Plea for Freedom of Speech in Boston.” 1860. (I use the version here because it has a useful historical introduction: <https://lawliberty.org/frederick-douglass-plea-for-freedom-of-speech-in-boston/>)
- Chafee, Zechariah. “Freedom of Speech in War Time.” *Harvard Law Review*. 1919. (Provides a useful snapshot of the sorts of issues the U.S. was grappling with in terms of free speech law roughly 100 years ago. Provides a useful critique of much of the free speech jurisprudence that had come before then.)
- Meiklejohn, Alexander. *Free Speech and its Relation to Self-Government*. 1948. (This is the classic text for the democracy-preserving justification for free speech. I typically assign the introduction and first chapter. This reading usually requires some historical and legal context for students before it becomes comprehensible.)
- Wu, Tim. “Is the First Amendment Obsolete?” *Michigan Law Review* 117, 3 (2018). (Okay, so it’s a bit of a stretch to call this one “historical,” but I think this article outlines the logical next step in the historical progression of big issues around freedom of speech. It focuses on the shift from scarcity of platforms to scarcity of attention and the significance of this for free speech in the twenty-first century.)

### Short Online Pieces

- Tufekci, Zeynep. “It’s the (Democracy-Poisoning) Golden Age of Free Speech,” *Wired*, January 16, 2018.
- Bejan, Teresa. “The Two Clashing Meanings of ‘Free Speech.’” *The Atlantic*, December 2, 2017.
- Graham, David A. “The Age of Reverse Censorship.” *The Atlantic*, June 26, 2018.
- Orwell, George. “Freedom of the Press.” <https://www.orwellfoundation.com/the-orwell-foundation/orwell/essays-and-other-works/the-freedom-of-the-press/>.
- Orwell, George. “The Prevention of Literature.” <https://www.orwellfoundation.com/the-orwell-foundation/orwell/essays-and-other-works/the-prevention-of-literature/>.

### Hate Speech

- Anderson, Luvell and Michael Barnes. “Hate Speech.” *Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*. 2022. (Interesting and thorough introduction to various philosophical

issues related to hate speech; some sections likely require some background knowledge in philosophy of language.)

- Delgado, Richard and Jean Stefancic. *Must We Defend Nazis? Why the First Amendment Should Not Protect Hate Speech and White Supremacy*. New York University Press. 2018. (Arguments in favor of the moral permissibility of limiting and/or regulating hate speech. Relatively short chapters, which can be assigned without assigning the whole book so long as one gives the students some context.)
- Strossen, Nadine. *Hate: Why We Should Resist It with Free Speech, Not Censorship*. Oxford University Press. 2018. (Arguments against regulating hate speech. Chapters can be assigned without assigning the whole book, so long as one gives the students some context.)
- Khan, Omar. “When is free speech not about speech? When it’s about racism.” *The Free Speech Wars*. Manchester University Press. 2021.

#### Campus Free Speech and No-Platforming

- Lukianoff, Greg and Jonathan Haidt. “The Coddling of the American Mind.” *The Atlantic*. September 12, 2015. (I strongly dislike this article. I think it is the result of misguided theorizing. Still, the arguments have been so influential that I assign the piece anyway and provide context ahead of time.)
- Hiltzik, Michael. “Are college campuses growing more intolerant of free speech? The Numbers Say No.” *Los Angeles Times*. March 13, 2017. (I assign this when I assign Lukianoff and Haidt to provide grounded, factual counterbalance.)
- Levy, Neil. “No-platforming and higher-order evidence, or anti-anti-no-platforming.” *Journal of the American Philosophical Association*, 5, 4 (2019):1-16. (This reading is particularly useful if one wants to connect debates in free speech and epistemology.)
- Satta, Mark. “Multi-Forum Institutions, the Power of Platforms, and Disinviting Speakers from University Campuses.” *Public Affairs Quarterly* 35, 2 (2021). (Seeks to distinguish relevant moral, legal, and empirical questions in the debates about campus disinvitations. Argues in favor of limited permissibility of disinviting.)
- Simpson, Robert Mark, and Amia Srinivasan. “No Platforming” in *Academic Freedom*, Jennifer Lackey (ed.) Oxford University Press, 2018. (Intuitive and insightful arguments in favor of limited no platforming.)

*The First Amendment Encyclopedia* is a useful resource for specific concepts and U.S. cases.

*Nota bene: Several of these readings discuss racial slurs and often do so without editing the slurring words.*