

Winter 2012, PHIL 87: Individual Liberty and its Limits
Professor Jerry Doppelt
Mondays 4:00p – 4:50p, H&SS 8025

*The topic of the seminar concerns the value of individual liberty and the question of when society is justified in using the law to restrict individual liberty. We will be reading John Stuart Mill's classic *On Liberty* and looking at controversies over the extent of liberty that arise in connection with the use of recreational drugs, the problem of hate speech, the issue of restricting pornography, and the use of law to prevent actions that the community considers immoral – for example, flag burning, public nudity, and similar actions.*

Requirements:

- Attendance at **every** class meeting as well as brief presentations on assigned readings
- John Stuart Mill's *On Liberty* (available at UCSD Bookstore under Laws 101/Phil 87)
- *Class reader: Available at Cal Copy, which is located on Villa La Jolla Village Drive, one block south of La Jolla Village Drive (behind Mobile gas station, across from El Torito restaurant). The telephone number is (858) 452-9949. See also www.calcopy.net.*

Schedule of Readings:

- **Monday January 9:** Introduction to course
- **Monday January 16:** *Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – NO CLASS*
- **Monday January 23:** Mill's *On Liberty*
- **Monday January 30:** Mill's *On Liberty*
- **Monday February 6:** P. Devlin's "The Enforcement of Morals," H.L.A. Hart's "The Immorality of Treason," *Bowers v. Hardwick* (U.S. Supreme Court Case)
- **Monday February 13:** J.Q. Wilson's "Against the Legalization of Drugs," D. Husak's "Recreational Drugs and Paternalism"
- **Monday February 20:** *President's Day – NO CLASS*
- **Monday February 27:** *R.A.V. v. City of St. Paul* (U.S. Supreme Court Case), Matsuda and Lawrence's "Words Which Wound: Burning Crosses and the R.A.V. Case," Delgado's "Words Which Wound: A Tort for Racial Insults, Epithets, and Name Calling," Altman's "Liberalism and Campus Hate Speech: A Philosophical Examination"
- **Monday March 5:** Mackinnon's "Pornography, Civil Rights, and Speech," Duggan, Hunter, and Vance's "False Promises: Feminist Anti-Pornography Legislation," *American Booksellers Association v. Hudnut* (U.S. Court of Appeals 7th Circuit)
- **Monday March 12:** Final Overview of the issues of the course