A. Course Description

Credits: 4

Lab Hours/ Weeks: Corequisites: None

Lecture Hours/ Week :

MnTC Goals: Goal LS - Upper Division Liberal Studies, Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp, Goal 01 - Communication

This course is designed to introduce students to their First Amendment rights to freedom of religion, freedom of expression, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly and freedom to petition. It will also explore citizens’ corresponding responsibilities and our frequent disagreements over these rights and responsibilities. Through course assignments students will develop a greater capacity to engage in civic activities by understanding the First Amendment, being able to more fully articulate their personal view of their First Amendment rights and responsibilities, refining their research and analysis skills, and developing their expertise in oral argumentation.


C. Outline of Major Content Areas:

See Course Description for major content areas.

D. Learning Outcomes (General)

1. Demonstrate ability to conduct academic research on the First Amendment.
2. Demonstrate an ability to act responsibly within First Amendment rights by providing evidence of understanding of these rights and corresponding responsibilities.
3. Display oral argumentation skills necessary to conduct a Lincoln-Douglass Debate during which well researched, logical and clearly articulated positions on a significant issue arising from the First Amendment are advocated and competing arguments are rebutted.
4. Exercise higher order thinking skills necessary to analyze and evaluate a variety of perspectives on issues arising from the First Amendment.
5. Identify opportunities to exercise citizenship rights pertaining to First Amendment issues.
6. Know and understand a broad range of social, political and personal ramifications of First Amendment rights.

E. Learning Outcomes (MN Transfer Curriculum)

Goal LS - Upper Division Liberal Studies
None

Goal 09 - Ethical/Civic Resp
1. Understand and apply core concepts (e.g. politics, rights and obligations, justice, liberty) to specific issues.
2. Analyze and reflect on the ethical dimensions of legal, social, and scientific issues.
3. Identify ways to exercise the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

Goal 01 - Communication
1. Employ syntax and usage appropriate to academic disciplines and the professional world.
2. Construct logical and coherent arguments.
3. Understand/demonstrate the writing and speaking processes through invention, organization, drafting, revision, editing and presentation.
4. Locate, evaluate, and synthesize in a responsible manner material from diverse sources and points of view.

G. Special Information