

US LAW AND POLITICS: TAKE-HOME TEST

You have to answer ONE question from each section, i.e., a total of FIVE questions. You do not need to answer in essay format. Bullet points, charts, and conceptual maps are accepted. Clarity and precision are essential. **If you answer in essay format, please make sure that you precede every argument or idea by its corresponding heading.** In all your answers, include reference to sources (topics, theories, elements, examples, readings, cases, etc.) that we discussed in class (or that are in the class notes and slides if you missed class). You are not permitted to consult with anyone about this test. Please do not ask me questions about the test once this test is posted online. As a matter of fairness, I do not want to give answers to some students that others do not have the benefit (or detriment) of hearing. You will simply have to use your own judgment about how to handle any possible difficulties, including the interpretation of the questions and tasks. **Submission:** You need to submit this evaluation to the Algoma University Moodle platform for this course by the deadline, i.e., **October 28, 2020 by 7.00 pm EST.** If you have technical difficulties, you can send this this evaluation to me by email in an MS Word attachment. In that case, please write “US LAW TEST” as the subject of the email.

Section A: Required (40%)

1. Analyze the following scenario.

Congress passed a law (“Fair Fares Act”) that mandates the disclosure of the final price of airline tickets (including all taxes, fees, and charges) in all TV ads where an airline advertises domestic or international flights. Non-compliance with the law is sanctioned with a fine. The purpose of the law is to require airlines to provide complete information for consumers to get an accurate understanding of the advertised fare. American Airlines aired a TV commercial promoting a new route from Miami to Moscow. The ad read “flights from \$199”. This price did not include taxes or fees. American Airlines was fined under the Fair Fares Act, but it appealed the fine alleging that the act violates Free Speech. Suppose you are the judge. Write your decision. Use headings for each argument.

Section B: Choose ONE question (15%)

2. Briefly explain the following quote from Bari Weiss’ letter to the New York Times: “new McCarthyism has taken root at the paper of record.”
3. Discuss the following quote and give specific examples of the enumeration in the last sentence (“Editors are fired ... clumsy mistakes.).

While we have come to expect this on the radical right, censoriousness is also spreading more widely in our culture: an intolerance of opposing views, a vogue for public shaming and ostracism, and the tendency to dissolve complex policy issues in a blinding moral certainty. We uphold the value of robust and even caustic counter-speech from all quarters. But it is now all too common to hear calls for swift and severe retribution in response to perceived transgressions of speech and thought. More troubling still, institutional leaders, in a spirit of panicked damage control, are delivering hasty and disproportionate punishments instead of considered reforms. Editors are fired for running controversial pieces; books are withdrawn for alleged inauthenticity; journalists are barred from writing on certain topics; professors are investigated for quoting works of literature in class; a researcher is fired for circulating a peer-reviewed academic study; and the heads of organizations are ousted for what are sometimes just clumsy mistakes.

Section C: Choose ONE question (15%)

4. Analyze the connection of the Manifest Destiny doctrine and white supremacy ideas.
5. Briefly discuss US policy toward current “illegal immigrants” coming from Mexico to the United States in connection to the Mexican American War.

Section D: Choose ONE question (15%)

6. Analyze the following quote from the presidential debate: “The party is me. Right now, I am the Democratic Party.”
7. Analyze the following quote from the presidential debate: “I ended [racial sensitivity training] because it’s racist.”

Section E: Choose ONE question (15%)

8. Discuss the following statement on the different responses to deal with coronavirus. “In practice, New York is still on lockdown, while Florida has fully opened and lifted all Covid-19 restrictions.”
9. Discuss examples that illustrate the mythical founding of the United States.
10. Discuss President’s Trump tweet

