

Comparative Constitutional Law
The Arcachon Program: Summer 2018
Professor Todd Pettys (todd-pettys@uiowa.edu)
Professor Caroline Sheerin (caroline-sheerin@uiowa.edu)

Course Content

In this course, we will study five free-speech topics, focusing mostly on the laws of the United States and France. The amount of time we devote to each topic will vary significantly. The topics will be:

1. Defamation
2. Right of Published Reply
3. Giving Publicity to Others' Private Lives
4. Hate Speech
5. Obscenity and Indecency in Broadcasting

Required Materials

You will be discussing a series of readings and working on short writing assignments. The writing assignments will be aimed at helping you deepen your understanding of the course material while also further sharpening your communication skills. You will find all of the readings on the "Courses" page of Professor Pettys's website: www.todd-pettys.com. The Arcachon page is protected by a password, which is (all one word):

beachread

Professor Sheerin will distribute the writing assignments by email or ICON at the appropriate time.

Attendance and Participation

The American Bar Association and the Iowa College of Law require regular class attendance and class preparation. To meet those requirements, you will need (among other things) to arrive for class on time and avoid using your laptops, tablets, or phones for non-class purposes during our class sessions.

Grades and Exam

One-third of your final course grade will be based on the quality of your class participation. (Quality is not the same thing as frequency, but neither is quality the same thing as unexpressed mental engagement.) Professors Pettys and Sheerin will work together to assign this portion of your grade.

One-third of your final course grade will be based on your performance on the writing assignments. Professor Sheerin will assign this portion of your grade.

One-third of your final course grade will be based on your performance on the final exam. Professor Pettys will assign this portion of your grade.

Disability Accommodations

If you believe that one or more disability accommodations might be necessary to enable you to participate fully in any aspect of this course, please get in touch with one of us prior to the end of our first day of class.