

Syllabus Statement Regarding Academic Freedom

Academic freedom is a cornerstone of the University. Academic freedom in its teaching aspect is fundamental for the protection of the rights of the teacher in teaching and of the student to freedom in learning.¹ Each faculty member is entitled to full freedom in the classroom discussing the subject which the faculty member teaches.² Texas A&M will not penalize or discipline members of the faculty because of their exercise of academic freedom.

Along with this freedom comes responsibility. It is the responsibility of faculty members to ensure that topics discussed are related to the classroom subject. Students should be free to take reasoned exception to the data or views offered in any course of study and to reserve judgment about matters of opinion, but they are responsible for learning the content of any course of study for which they are enrolled.³ It is not the proper role of the university or any outside agency to attempt to shield individuals from ideas and opinions they find unwelcome, disagreeable, or even deeply offensive.⁴ Engaging with new ideas and perspectives helps students grow intellectually and is beneficial to the educational process.

¹ 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure

² Texas A&M System Regulation 12.01: Section 1.2

³ American Association of University Professors Joint Statement on Rights and Freedoms of Students

⁴ The Chicago Statement