

DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- At the beginning of the video, Professor Peterson cautions that, "...you are currently funding some dangerous people. They are indoctrinating young minds throughout the West with their resentment-ridden ideology. They have made it their life's mission to undermine Western civilization itself, which they regard as corrupt, oppressive and 'patriarchal.' If you're a taxpayer—or paying for your kid's liberal arts degree—you're underwriting this gang of nihilists. You're supporting ideologues who claim that all truth is subjective; that all sex differences are socially constructed; and that Western imperialism is the source of all Third World problems." Why do you think that post-modernists believe such unsubstantiated and narrow-thinking nonsense in the face of overwhelming evidence to the contrary? Why do you think that these ideologues choose to benefit from and live in a society that they supposedly hate so much? Explain. Do you agree with Professor Peterson's characterization of such ideologues as 'dangerous?' Why or why not?
- Professor Peterson goes on to explain that, "They are the post-modernists, pushing "progressive" activism at a college near you. They produce the mobs that violently shut down campus speakers; the language police who enshrine into law use of fabricated gender pronouns, the deans whose livelihoods depend on madly rooting out discrimination where little or none exists... And now we rack up education-related debt, not so that our children learn to think critically, write clearly, or speak properly, but so they can model their mentors' destructive agenda." Do you think that ANY one particular group should be 'pushing' an ideological agenda, and associated activism, at colleges and universities? Why or why not? In what ways can a university supporting and 'pushing' a particular ideological agenda at a university be destructive, in terms of the holistic development of students and of the society they will shape when finished with school? Explain.
- Later in the video, Professor Peterson states that, "To understand and oppose the post-modernists, the ideas by which they orient themselves must be clearly identified. First is their new unholy trinity of diversity, equity and inclusion. Diversity is defined not by opinion, but by race, ethnicity or sexual identity; equity is no longer the laudable goal of equality of opportunity, but the insistence on equality of outcome; and inclusion is the use of identity-based quotas to attain this misconceived state of equity." Do you agree that post-modernists should be 'opposed?' Why or why not? What are the important differences between 'equality of opportunity' and 'equality of outcome,' and why are those differences so critical to how one shapes ideology and chooses a degree of activism?
- Upon sharing another example of narrow, extremist, post-modern thinking Professor Peterson notes that, "Post-modernists don't believe in individuals. You're an exemplar of your race, sex, or sexual preference. You're also either a victim or an oppressor. No wrong can be done by anyone in the former group, and no good by the latter. Such ideas of victimization do nothing but justify the use of power and engender intergroup conflict." How do such post-modern ideas and values conflict with traditional American values? Explain. In what ways might a victimization mindset 'justify the use of power and engender intergroup conflict?' Explain.
- At the conclusion of the video, Professor Peterson warns us that, "The corrupt ideas of the post-modern neo-Marxists should have been consigned to the dustbin of history. Instead, we underwrite their continuance in the very institutions where the central ideas of the West should be transmitted across the generations. Unless we stop, post-modernism will do to

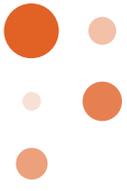
America and the entire Western world what it's already done to its universities." Do you agree with Professor Peterson that post-modern ideas should have been left to die with the failed nations that tried them rather than have them promulgated in our universities in place of Western values? Why or why not? What exactly do you think Professor Peterson means by the last statement in the quote? Explain.

EXTEND THE LEARNING:

CASE STUDY: U.C. Berkeley

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article "Ben Shapiro to talk at Berkeley college where clashes have shut down other conservative speakers," then answer the questions that follow.

- Why was Mr. Shapiro invited to speak at U.C. Berkeley, and by whom was he invited to speak? What obligation did Mr. Shapiro state that the university has? What is Antifa, and what have they been doing? What other groups have clashed on the campus, and what were the outcomes of those clashes? What happened when Mr. Yiannopoulos tried to speak there? How did the university respond when Mr. Yiannopoulos and Ms. Coulter were invited to speak there? What happened when Charles Murray attempted to give a speech at Middlebury College? What did Spencer Brown say about U.C. Berkeley?
- Do you think that conservative speakers should be allowed to speak at U.C. Berkeley? Why or why not? Why do you think that the campus that was at the forefront of the free speech movement just one generation ago has swung so far to the extreme opposite standpoint? In what way does this example relate to Professor Peterson's point about equal opportunities versus equal outcomes?
- Which other points made in the article support points made in the video? What are some other examples of universities changing how they operate and changing what they support in order to placate post-modernists?



QUIZ

DANGEROUS PEOPLE ARE TEACHING YOUR CHILDREN

1. What is the new unholy trinity of the post-modernists?

- a. Liberty, equality and fraternity.
- b. Justice, freedom and individualism.
- c. Competition, sorority and identity.
- d. Diversity, equity and inclusion.

2. What is the pillar of democracy?

- a. Big government
- b. Racial identity
- c. Freedom of speech
- d. Equality of outcome

3. Post-modernists' concepts originated with _____.

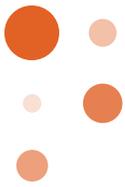
- a. Karl Marx
- b. Martin Luther
- c. George Washington
- d. Vladimir Putin

4. Post-modernists don't believe in individuals.

- a. True
- b. False

5. Which of the following do post-modernists believe?

- a. All truth is subjective.
- b. All sex differences are socially constructed.
- c. Western imperialism is the sole source of all Third World problems.
- d. All of the above.



QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/grade-point/wp/2017/07/11/ben-shapiro-plans-to-speak-at-uc-berkeley-where-clashes-have-shut-down-other-conservative-speakers/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.3dd2ac8f8eda

Ben Shapiro to talk at Berkeley college where clashes have shut down other conservative speakers

By Susan Svrluga July 11, 2017



Ben Shapiro at the 2016 Politicon at the Pasadena Convention Center in Pasadena, Calif. (Gage Skidmore)

Ben Shapiro plans to speak at the University of California at Berkeley in September, challenging the school to accommodate a conservative speaker after similar events were canceled when protests spun out of control.

Shapiro, a conservative columnist, was invited by the Young America's Foundation and the Berkeley College Republicans to "bring ideological diversity" to a campus that "rarely, if ever, is exposed to conservative ideas," the foundation announced Tuesday afternoon.

Shapiro often gives speeches on college campuses. But this is Berkeley, which has become the epicenter of clashes between the far left and the far right in recent months, with a series of highly charged controversies over politics, freedom of speech and academic freedom.

The state flagship campus, the birthplace of the Free Speech Movement of the 1960s and for many a symbol of campus liberalism, has seen rallies in and around campus turn violent this year. As left-wing

protesters, black-masked anarchists, Trump supporters and self-proclaimed militia groups clashed, windows were smashed, fistfights broke out and molotov cocktails got tossed.

“I look forward to speaking to students of all viewpoints at Berkeley,” Shapiro said in a written statement Tuesday afternoon. “I expect that the administration will not hide behind the heckler’s veto of despicable groups like Antifa to prevent this event from moving forward. The home of the free speech movement has an obligation to protect free speech.”

Antifa, an abbreviation for “antifascists,” is a term to describe radical and far-left groups that use “black bloc” tactics by wearing masks, dressing in black and often sparking riots and property damage at demonstrations.

Dan Mogulof, assistant vice chancellor of UC-Berkeley, said Berkeley College Republicans had told them about the invitation Monday.

“Before anything else, we want to state unequivocally that Mr. Shapiro is welcome on the Berkeley campus and that we will work with the student organization to ensure they can host a safe and successful event,” Mogulof said in a statement.

He said the Republican group requested a venue on the main campus that can accommodate 500 attendees at 7 p.m. on Sept. 14.

“We will now, as per standard practice, work with the students to determine whether a suitable venue of that size is available on the intended date and time,” he said.

Police will also begin a security assessment, as required, Mogulof said, which could lead to recommendations about timing and location.

“We are confident that arrangements can and will be made for Mr. Shapiro to speak on the Berkeley campus, with the exact date and time depending only on the availability of an appropriate venue and the recommendations of law enforcement professionals,” Mogulof said. “We will do everything in our power to ensure that Mr. Shapiro, his hosts, and their guests can safely and successfully exercise their First Amendment rights. That commitment can be fulfilled only when events are held at a time and location that allow for the provision of any required security measures.”

In February, University of California police locked down the campus and canceled a speech by Milo Yiannopoulos after about 150 masked “black bloc” anarchists and radicals swarmed into a group of 1,500 or so students who had been demonstrating against the speech, and began throwing rocks and firecrackers at police, lit a propane tank on fire and broke windows.



A bonfire set by demonstrators protesting a scheduled speaking appearance by former Breitbart News editor Milo Yiannopoulos burns on Sproul Plaza at the University of California at Berkeley on Feb. 1. (Ben Margot/Associated Press)

To some, the shutdown was the only safe response to a dangerous situation. To others, it was a willful stifling of free speech, another assault on conservative ideas.

The morning after the cancellation, President Trump tweeted, “If U.C. Berkeley does not allow free speech and practices violence on innocent people with a different point of view — NO FEDERAL FUNDS?”

Yiannopoulos, a polarizing former editor of Breitbart News, calls himself a free-speech fundamentalist fighting political correctness. His critics say he spreads hate. He was banned from Twitter last summer after sending tweets targeting an actress who is black.

Yiannopoulos has vowed to return for a week of free-speech events at Berkeley this fall.



Berkeley police guard the building where Milo Yiannopoulos was to speak on Feb. 1. (Ben Margot/Associated Press)

In April, the College Republicans invited conservative commentator Ann Coulter to speak, and university officials canceled the event over safety concerns. Then, after a backlash, the school invited her to speak the following week in a more secure setting. The Young America's Foundation and College Republicans filed a lawsuit against the university, claiming it had violated their right to free speech. Coulter did not give a speech, but protesters converged anyway.

At the time, Nicholas Dirks, then the chancellor of Berkeley, said the school was facing anger from both sides of the political spectrum, and a new reality, one in which people think of Berkeley as a place "for the mounting of pitched battle and the staging of violent controversies."

Other campuses have seen battles over free speech and hate speech erupt; at Auburn University this spring, a fistfight broke out during protests when alt-right leader Richard Spencer spoke on campus. And earlier this year, an angry mob of hundreds surrounded author and conservative scholar Charles Murray after he tried to give a lecture at Middlebury College, climbing on the hood of his car and pounding on its windows as he tried to leave.

"Berkeley has a choice: To uphold the First Amendment rights of all students, or once again cave under pressure from extreme leftists and unconstitutionally censor conservative speech," Spencer Brown, a spokesman for the Young America's Foundation, said in a written statement.

Naweed Tahmas, external vice president of Berkeley College Republicans, said in a statement, "Students at Berkeley want and deserve to hear from Ben Shapiro, and they will this fall."



Susan Svrluga is a reporter covering higher education for The Washington Post's Grade Point blog. Before that, she covered education and local news at The Post. Follow @SusanSvrluga