

Philosophy Department Colloquium Series

Friday, March 22 2019

2:00 p.m.

B-730

Everyone is welcome

Explain or Shut Up! Reflections on Controversial Views in the Classroom

Prof. Karl Laderoute
Department of Philosophy

Sometimes a controversial view on a sensitive issue is aired in the classroom. How should instructors respond to such situations? Two obvious alternatives are to silence the airing of such views or to critically engage with them. In this talk I will clarify what constitutes a controversial view on a sensitive issue and consider some difficulties with providing satisfactory definitions of these terms. Then I will draw on the legal limitations on hate speech in Canada to inform a set of moral duties on how to handle such situations.

