

The thesis entitled “Cancel Culture – A Challenge Or A Threat?” deals with the phenomenon of the so-called Cancel Culture, which is mainly known from the USA and the UK, but the first signs of it are also noticeable in the Czech Republic. The thesis analyses examples from the cultural, political, and academic spheres in the United States, with the aim of revealing the effects of the Cancel Culture on society and on the perception of the limits of freedom of speech and, by extension, academic freedom. The thesis establishes the boundary between legitimate criticism and cancellation. The threat to freedom of speech and, by extension, academic freedom, is presented when academics are disturbed because of their unpopular opinion, such as their political beliefs. In the cultural and political spheres, interference represents the threat described by the concept of the spiral of silence. As research shows, people are afraid to express their opinion if it is not in line with the majority opinion, for fear of cancellation and possible consequences. Despite its shortcomings, this phenomenon can be a legitimate tool for achieving social justice, because it effectively highlights sensitive social issues such as racism, sexism, xenophobia, etc.