

**ENGL 2200 British Literature II**  
*The Anatomy of the World*  
Winter Quarter, 2016  
T / R 10:00 – 11:50  
SH 234

**W. Scott Howard**  
Department of English  
[showard@du.edu](mailto:showard@du.edu) / 303-871-2887  
<https://portfolio.du.edu/showard>  
SH 387-E

**Essay 1: *Civil Liberties, Gender Politics, Free Speech***

**Texts:**

*Areopagitica* (1644) by John Milton,  
[ [https://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading\\_room/areopagitica/text.shtml](https://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading_room/areopagitica/text.shtml) ]  
Also in Damrosch: 1716-26

*Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792) by Mary Wollstonecraft,  
[ <https://scholarsbank.uoregon.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1794/785/vindication.pdf> ]  
Also in Damrosch: 1976-78

"Milton's *Areopagitica* and the Modern First Amendment" (1995) by Vincent Blasi,  
[ [http://digitalcommons.law.yale.edu/ylsop\\_papers/6/](http://digitalcommons.law.yale.edu/ylsop_papers/6/) ]

Damrosch: Introduction, 622-35, 644-48  
Damrosch: *Tracts on Women and Gender*, 1445-66

**Guidelines:**

These challenging texts introduce you to the culture of pamphlet warfare, which was vigorous during the early modern era. How and why does Blasi's argument critique and also celebrate Milton's tract vis-à-vis civil liberties in the US? How and why might you read Wollstonecraft's tract along with or against Milton's text and the collection of documents in the *Tracts on Women and Gender* section of our anthology? Which liberties in these arguments are worth defending within a twenty-first-century secular democratic society? How so and why?

Provide evidence (i.e. direct quotation) from: Milton, Wollstonecraft, Blasi, Damrosch's Introduction, and at least three of the texts included in the *Tracts on Women and Gender* section of our anthology.

**Length:** 3 pages (not including your Works Cited page)

**Specs.:** Times new Roman font, 12 point; double-spaced; 1" margins; hard copy, pages stapled. MLA parenthetical citation and works cited format.

**Due: Tuesday, January 12**