

**FSEM 1111, Section 20**  
T/Th 10:00 – 11:50  
SH 454  
Fall Quarter, 2010  
CRN 4154

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**FIRST YEAR SEMINAR:  
CENSORSHIP, FREE SPEECH, AND LITERATURE**

**Course Syllabus:** <http://portfolio.du.edu/showard>

**Course Description:**

Students enrolled in this First-Year Seminar will become active participants in local and national events that contribute to Banned Books Week. The course will combine on- and off-campus field trips (to local libraries and booksellers) with reading, writing, discussion, and research activities designed to investigate dynamic relationships among censorship, free speech, and literary discourse (in England and the US) from the seventeenth century to the present. Students will work individually, in groups, and collectively as citizens as they engage with research projects that will connect the classroom to the world-at-large. The seminar will also provide individualized academic advising as part of a robust introduction to campus resources and the intellectual community at DU.

Censorship and free speech are potentially vast interdisciplinary subjects of study. This course will therefore necessarily focus the scope of inquiry upon the various ways in which literary texts engage with those freedoms devised and defended by The First Amendment of The Bill of Rights to The United States Constitution (1776, 1789-1791):

***CONGRESS SHALL MAKE NO LAW RESPECTING AN ESTABLISHMENT OF RELIGION, OR PROHIBITING THE FREE EXERCISE THEREOF; OR ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH, OR OF THE PRESS; OR THE RIGHT OF THE PEOPLE PEACEABLY TO ASSEMBLE, AND TO PETITION THE GOVERNMENT FOR A REDRESS OF GRIEVANCES.***

Banned Books Week (September 25-October 2) will serve as our gateway into current events and social discourses touching upon a series of inter-related issues and topics, such as: constructions of and challenges to The First Amendment from Milton to modernity; case studies (local and global) of book banning from, for example, *Photo Novellas* (Denver, 2005-06) to *The Talmud* (Paris, 1144); The USA Patriot Act and civil liberties post- 9/11; and The Freedom to Read Protection Act.

**Required Texts:**

- Bradbury, Ray. *Fahrenheit 451*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1995. ISBN: 0345342968. \$6.99.  
Bradbury, Ray, and Tim Hamilton. *Fahrenheit 451: the Authorized Adaptation*. New York: Harper Voyager, 2009. ISBN: 0007304730. \$16.95.  
Chang, Nancy. *Silencing Political Dissent: How Post-September 11 Anti-Terrorism Measures Threaten Our Civil Liberties*. New York: Seven Stories Press, 2002. ISBN: 1583224947; \$9.95.  
Doyle, Robert P. *2007 Banned Books Resource Guide*. Chicago: American Library Association, 2007. ISBN: 0838984258; \$41.75.  
Falkoff, Marc, ed. *Poems from Guantanamo: The Detainees Speak*. Iowa City: University of Iowa Press, 2007. ISBN: 1587296063; \$13.95.  
Karolides, Nicholas J., Margaret Bald, and Dawn B. Sova. *120 Banned Books: Censorship Histories of World Literature*. New York: Checkmark Books, 2005. ISBN: 0816060436; \$19.95.

**DU Bookstore:** <http://www.dubookstore.com/denver/>

### Additional Texts and Other Resources:

1. Working from the current ALA (American Library Association) list, *The 100 Most Frequently Challenged Books, 1990-2000*, <http://www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/bbwlinks/100mostfrequently.htm>, as well as from Robert Doyle's *Banned Books: 2007 Resource Guide*, students will be required to select and purchase one literary work for a research project.
2. On-Line resources, including:
  - ALA Intellectual Freedom pages, <http://www.ala.org/>
  - American Booksellers Foundation for Free Expression, ABFFE, <http://www.abffe.org/>
  - Index Librorum Prohibitorum, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Index\\_Librorum\\_Prohibitorum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Index_Librorum_Prohibitorum)
  - American Booksellers Association, <http://www.bookweb.org/>
  - The Campaign for Reader Privacy, <http://www.readerPrivacy.org/>
  - PEN American Center, <http://www.pen.org/>
  - GUERRILLAGIRLS, <http://www.guerrillagirls.com/>
  - The Free Expression Policy Project, <http://www.fepproject.org/>
  - American Civil Liberties Union, <http://www.aclu.org/>
  - National Coalition Against Censorship, <http://www.ncac.org/>
  - The USA Patriot Act (HR 3162), <http://www.epic.org/privacy/terrorism/hr3162.html>
  - The Freedom to Read Protection Act (HR 1157), [http://www.fas.org/irp/congress/2003\\_cr/hr1157.html](http://www.fas.org/irp/congress/2003_cr/hr1157.html)
  - The Bill of Rights, [http://www.constitution.org/billofr\\_.htm](http://www.constitution.org/billofr_.htm)
  - Denver Public Library, <http://denverlibrary.org/>
  - The Tattered Cover, <http://www.tatteredcover.com/NASApp/store/IndexJsp>
  - The Dikeou Collection, <http://www.dikeoucollection.org/>
3. On-Line texts, such as: Milton's "Areopagitica", [http://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading\\_room/areopagitica/index.shtml](http://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading_room/areopagitica/index.shtml); a LibriVox sound recording of "Areopagitica" read by Moira Fogarty, [http://www.archive.org/details/areopagitica\\_0806\\_librivox](http://www.archive.org/details/areopagitica_0806_librivox); and Vincent Blasi's accompanying essay, "Milton's *Areopagitica* & the Modern First Amendment", <http://www.nationalhumanitiescenter.org/ideasv42/blasi4.htm>.
4. On-Line audio productions, including *This American Life*, "Habeas Schmabeas", [http://www.thislife.org/Radio\\_Episode.aspx?episode=331](http://www.thislife.org/Radio_Episode.aspx?episode=331)
5. Photocopied articles, book chapters, and essays (TBA).
6. Films (TBA).

### Method of Evaluation & Grading:

8 Informal Essays* (500-1,000 words each or TBA):	60%
1 ALA Book Project and Presentation:	40%

\* The first two of these essays will dovetail with Discoveries Week and our Destinations trip.

**Note on grading:** The Check System. I'll be grading your informal essays with a check system that will follow these guidelines: A check plus on all your essays will translate into a grade of 4.0/A for that percentage of your overall grade in the course. Each check on an essay will reduce your grade for that component of your overall grade in the course by -0.5. Each check minus, by -1.0; each missing essay, by -2.0. If you ever receive less than a check plus on one of the essays, you will have the option to revise and resubmit the essay for a higher grade. Those revisions will be due by the beginning of the next class meeting. Your other assignments will receive letter grades.

**Note on attendance:** For each unexcused absence the student's overall grade in the class will be diminished by -0.5.

**Note on essays:** Unless otherwise specified, all essays are due at the beginning of class in hard copy form: typed, double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font, one inch margins, pages stapled. Papers that do not conform to these guidelines will be marked as *late*. Late work will receive a deduction of -0.5 per day.

**Note on plagiarism:** Students are expected to submit original work for all assignments. Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in an automatic F in the course.

**Calendar (subject to changes):**

- Week 1**  
T 9/14 **Defending The First Amendment: Libraries, Authors & Booksellers**  
**Writing:** Essay #2 due  
**Listening:** *Fahrenheit 451*  
**Viewing:** *Reading Your Rights* (documentary film)  
**Reading:** The Bill of Rights [http://www.constitution.org/billofr\\_.htm](http://www.constitution.org/billofr_.htm); ALA <http://www.ala.org/>; ABFFE <http://www.abffe.org/>; American Booksellers Association <http://www.bookweb.org/>; PEN American Center <http://www.pen.org/>; Doyle; Bradbury  
**Research:** ALA Book Orders
- Th 9/16 **Listening:** *Fahrenheit 451*  
**Viewing:** *Reading Your Rights* (documentary film)  
**Reading:** The Bill of Rights, [http://www.constitution.org/billofr\\_.htm](http://www.constitution.org/billofr_.htm); ALA, <http://www.ala.org/>; ABFFE <http://www.abffe.org/>; American Booksellers Association, <http://www.bookweb.org/>; PEN American Center, <http://www.pen.org/>; Doyle; Bradbury  
**Research:** ALA Book Orders
- Week 2**  
T 9/21 **Defending The First Amendment: Milton & Modernity**  
**Listening:** *Fahrenheit 451*; and Milton, "Areopagitica", [http://www.archive.org/details/areopagitica\\_0806\\_librivox](http://www.archive.org/details/areopagitica_0806_librivox)  
**Reading:** The Bill of Rights, [http://www.constitution.org/billofr\\_.htm](http://www.constitution.org/billofr_.htm); ALA, <http://www.ala.org/>; ABFFE <http://www.abffe.org/>; American Booksellers Association, <http://www.bookweb.org/>; PEN American Center, <http://www.pen.org/>; Doyle; Bradbury  
**Research:** ALA Book Orders
- Extra Reading:** Milton, "Areopagitica", [http://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading\\_room/areopagitica/index.shtml](http://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading_room/areopagitica/index.shtml); and Blasi, "Milton's *Areopagitica* & the Modern First Amendment", <http://www.nationalhumanitiescenter.org/ideasv42/blasi4.htm>; Other Texts TBA
- T 9/21 **Dining:** Chancellor's Dinner, 6:00-8:00, Gottesfeld Room, Ritchie Center, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor
- Th 9/23 **Writing:** Essay #3 due  
**Listening:** *Fahrenheit 451*; and Milton, "Areopagitica", [http://www.archive.org/details/areopagitica\\_0806\\_librivox](http://www.archive.org/details/areopagitica_0806_librivox)  
**Reading:** Milton, "Areopagitica", [http://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading\\_room/areopagitica/index.shtml](http://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading_room/areopagitica/index.shtml); and Blasi, "Milton's *Areopagitica* & the Modern First Amendment", <http://www.nationalhumanitiescenter.org/ideasv42/blasi4.htm>; Bradbury; Other Texts TBA  
**Research:** ALA Book Orders

**Banned Books Week: 9/25-10/2**

- Week 3**  
T 9/28 **Book Banning: Case Studies #1, Local & National**  
**Listening:** *Fahrenheit 451*; and Milton, “Areopagitica”,  
[http://www.archive.org/details/areopagitica\\_0806\\_librivox](http://www.archive.org/details/areopagitica_0806_librivox)  
**Reading:** Milton, “Areopagitica”,  
[http://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading\\_room/areopagitica/index.shtml](http://www.dartmouth.edu/~milton/reading_room/areopagitica/index.shtml); and Blasi,  
“Milton’s *Areopagitica* & the Modern First Amendment”,  
<http://www.nationalhumanitiescenter.org/ideasv42/blasi4.htm>; Bradbury & Hamilton;  
Other Texts TBA
- Th 9/30 **Writing:** Essay #4 Due  
**Listening:** *Fahrenheit 451*  
**Reading:** Doyle; Karolides; Bradbury & Hamilton; Other Texts TBA
- Week 4**  
T 10/5 **Book Banning: Case Studies #2, Global**  
**Listening:** *Fahrenheit 451*  
**Reading:** Index Librorum Prohibitorum,  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Index\\_Librorum\\_Prohibitorum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Index_Librorum_Prohibitorum); Doyle; Karolides; Bradbury  
& Hamilton; Other Texts TBA
- Th 10/7 **Writing:** Essay #5 Due  
**Listening:** *Fahrenheit 451*  
**Reading:** Index Librorum Prohibitorum,  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Index\\_Librorum\\_Prohibitorum](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Index_Librorum_Prohibitorum); Doyle; Karolides; Bradbury  
& Hamilton; Other Texts TBA
- Week 5**  
T 10/12 **Reading the Archive: Collection Development at DU**  
**Reading:** Texts TBA  
**Field Trip:** Penrose Library, DU, <http://www.penlib.du.edu/>, Michael Levine-Clark,  
[michael.levine-clark@du.edu](mailto:michael.levine-clark@du.edu)
- Th 10/14 **Reading:** Texts TBA  
**Field Trip:** Westminster Law Library, DU, <http://law.du.edu/index.php/library>,  
Stacy Bowers, [sbowers@law.du.edu](mailto:sbowers@law.du.edu)
- Week 6**  
T 10/19 **Cultural Contexts #1: The USA Patriot Act (HR 3162) & The First Amendment**  
**Writing:** Essay #6 Due  
**Listening:** *Fahrenheit 451*  
**Reading:** The USA Patriot Act (HR 3162),  
<http://www.epic.org/privacy/terrorism/hr3162.html>; The Campaign for Reader Privacy,  
<http://www.readerPrivacy.org/>; The Freedom to Read Protection Act (HR 1157),  
[http://www.fas.org/irp/congress/2003\\_cr/hr1157.html](http://www.fas.org/irp/congress/2003_cr/hr1157.html); Other Texts TBA; Chang;  
Bradbury & Hamilton  
**Viewing:** *Fahrenheit 9/11*
- Th 10/21 **Listening:** *Fahrenheit 451*  
**Reading:** The USA Patriot Act (HR 3162),  
<http://www.epic.org/privacy/terrorism/hr3162.html>; The Campaign for Reader Privacy,  
<http://www.readerPrivacy.org/>; The Freedom to Read Protection Act (HR 1157),  
[http://www.fas.org/irp/congress/2003\\_cr/hr1157.html](http://www.fas.org/irp/congress/2003_cr/hr1157.html); Other Texts TBA; Chang;  
Bradbury & Hamilton  
**Viewing:** *Fahrenheit 9/11*; and *Unconstitutional: The War on Our Civil Liberties*

- Week 7**  
T 10/26      ***Cultural Contexts #2: Civil Liberties Post 9/11 (at home & abroad)***  
**Writing:** Essay #7 Due  
**Listening:** *Fahrenheit 451*  
**Reading:** Chang; Falkoff; Other Texts TBA; Bradbury & Hamilton  
**Viewing:** *Unconstitutional: The War on Our Civil Liberties*
- Th 10/28      **Listening:** *Fahrenheit 451*  
**Reading:** Chang; Falkoff; Other Texts TBA; Bradbury & Hamilton  
**Viewing:** film, TBA
- Week 8**  
T 11/2      ***Cultural Contexts #3: Civil Liberties Post 9/11 (at home & abroad)***  
**Listening:** *This American Life*, “Habeas Schmabeas”,  
[http://www.thislife.org/Radio\\_Episode.aspx?episode=331](http://www.thislife.org/Radio_Episode.aspx?episode=331)  
**Reading:** Chang; Falkoff; Other Texts TBA
- Th 11/4      **Writing:** Essay #8 Due  
**Listening:** *This American Life*, “Habeas Schmabeas”,  
[http://www.thislife.org/Radio\\_Episode.aspx?episode=331](http://www.thislife.org/Radio_Episode.aspx?episode=331)  
**Reading:** Chang; Falkoff; Other Texts TBA  
**Viewing:** film, TBA
- Week 9**  
T 11/9      ***Presentations #1: ALA Books***  
**Presenting:** ALA Books
- Th 11/11      **Presenting:** ALA Books
- Week 10**  
T 11/16      ***Presentations #2: ALA Books***  
**Presenting:** ALA Books
- Th 11/18      **Writing:** ALA Book Projects Due  
**Presenting:** ALA Books
- DU Final Examinations: 11/19 - 11/22**