

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

W. Scott Howard
 Department of English
showard@du.edu
<http://mysite.du.edu/~showard/>
 SH 387-E
 303-871-2887

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

Essay #4: *Defending The First Amendment: Milton & Modernity*

This essay calls for a synthetic, contextual study. Please follow the steps below and write in response to these questions. Use evidence (i.e. direct quotation) from all sources and also provide a works cited page (either MLA or Chicago style).

1. Read the following documents: Milton, “Areopagitica”, 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>. If you wish, you may also listen to Milton’s “Areopagitica”, http://www.archive.org/details/areopagitica_0806_librivox.
2. In *Areopagitica*, how and why does Milton devise and defend one of his key concepts/ideas (e.g. liberty, reason, contraries) in terms of a dialectical tension between free speech and censorship?
3. In his lecture, “Milton’s *Areopagitica* & the Modern First Amendment,” how and why does Blasi work within and against the framework of Milton’s argument?

Length: 1,000 words (exclusive of the works cited)

Due: Thursday, 9/30