

## **DU First-Year Seminar: *Censorship, Free Speech and Literature***

Dear Students,

I hope you are all enjoying your summer breaks . . . !

In just a few weeks, we will begin our work together during the University of Denver's Orientation Week, which is known by a few different names: DISCOVERIES, DIALOGUES & DESTINATIONS. "Discoveries" refers to the whole week of orientation activities; "Dialogues & Destinations," more specifically to our on- and off-campus meetings.

During your Discoveries activities, Shawna Taets will be serving as your Orientation Leader. Shawna will be in touch with you soon via e-mail.

In the meantime, please visit these two web pages for complete info. about DISCOVERIES, DIALOGUES & DESTINATIONS:

<http://www.du.edu/studentlife/discoveries/index.html>

<http://www.du.edu/studentlife/discoveries/firstyearstudents.html>

On that second page, please pay special attention to the items noted in the "Checklist Before You Arrive."

I'll be working with you during Dialogues & Destinations because you have registered for my First-Year Seminar, "Censorship, Free Speech and Literature." I'll attach a brief course description, in case that may be of interest. You'll see complete info. there for the required books, which you may purchase either at the DU Bookstore, or via Amazon or Powell's or other vendors. In addition to those noted titles, there will be one more required text: a comic memoir, *AxeMan*, by Howard Saunders. I'll have complete details on that book during our first week of regular class meetings for our "Censorship, Free Speech and Literature" course.

If you would like to get a head-start on our work in that class, you could begin by reading Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451* and also Tim Hamilton's graphic novel edition. But that's just a suggestion (at this point in August, when you're still on break).

Also attached to this e-mail, you'll see a PDF with instructions for using Blackboard, an electronic classroom platform. We will be using Blackboard for some of our work in the "Censorship, Free Speech and Literature" course, so please take a moment to practice using the BB system.

For our Destinations trip (Thursday, September 8) we will travel (via light rail) to downtown Denver to visit the central branch of Denver Public Library and also the LoDo location of the Tattered Cover bookstore for presentations on how those two different institutions handle book challenges from patrons/customers, collection development decisions, and various contentious matters concerning the dialectical tensions among censorship, free speech and literary works that challenge the status quo. I'll have complete details about our field trip during our first meeting for Dialogues: 10:00, Tuesday, September 6, in Sturm Hall 358.

I look forward to seeing you then & there . . . !

All best wishes,  
Scott

W. Scott Howard  
Department of English  
<http://mysite.du.edu/~showard/>