

**FSEM 1111, Section 7**  
 Fall Quarter, 2011  
 CRN 4316  
 MW 10:00-11:50  
 SH 235

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 SH 387-E

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

**Banned Books Week: 9/24-10/1**

- Week 3**  
 M 9/26 **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;  
 Doyle.
- W 9/28 **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;  
 Doyle.
- Week 4**  
 M 10/3 **Book Banning: Case Studies #2, Global**  
**Writing:** Essay #4 Due

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

As we continue our investigation of the forces that shaped the First Amendment to the US Constitution, we will now study one of the acknowledged sources, which directly influenced that intellectual, religious & political context: John Milton's prose tract, "Areopagitica."

This essay assignment calls for a comparative & synthetic 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 two documents: 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>. If you wish, you may also listen to  
 Milton's "Areopagitica," [http://www.archive.org/details/areopagitica\\_0806\\_librivox](http://www.archive.org/details/areopagitica_0806_librivox).
2. Continue your reading of Bradbury's & Hamilton's editions of *Fahrenheit 451*.
3. Select your ALA book for your final project.
4. Select two book challenges from Doyle's *2007 Banned Books Resource Guide*. If you wish, you may choose cases pertaining to your ALA book.
5. 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?

6. 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?
7. How and why does *Fahrenheit 451* illustrate Milton's and Blasi's arguments?
8. How and why do your selected cases from Doyle's text illustrate Milton's and Blasi's arguments?

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

**Due: Monday, 10/3**