

ENH 295: Banned Books and Censorship

Section 64985

Fall 2009 11:30-12:45 T/Th*

Ruth Callahan Ph.D. 05-132 Voice Mail 623-845-3769

E-mail: ruth.callahan@gmail.com*
* Use your MEID address

Office Hours:

Blackboard web address: <http://www.maricopa.edu/blackboard/>
(for announcements, grades and blogs)

Course folder address: <http://www.gc.maricopa.edu/>
("Current Students" → "Learning Resources" → "Related Links")

Google Docs through Google: docs.google.com

(Mind mapping software: <http://www.mindomo.com/>)

English Department home page: <http://www.gc.maricopa.edu/English>

Official Course Description:

History, motivations, and effects of censorship in a democratic society. Censorship and book banning as a method of silencing diverse voices. Critical analysis of banned or challenged literature for children and adults. Prerequisites: None. (To save paper, I have not listed the competencies here, but you can see them in the course folder or at <http://www.maricopa.edu/academic/curric/> Use "Course Search.")

"EVERY BURNED BOOK ENLIGHTENS THE WORLD." - RALPH WALDO EMERSON



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* Glendale Community College, 600 West Olive Ave. Glendale, AZ. 85302 Room FW 52

* You really **must** use your MEID mail address if/when you email me. GCC has a good Spam filter and may stop your mail reaching me by at least 24 hours by putting it in quarantine.

Class requirements

ATTENDANCE: Attendance is hugely important in this class. There is a great deal of both oral and visual instruction and discussion involved. Much of the material covered is not in your textbooks; therefore, it is important that you be here.

ATTITUDE: A portion of your grade is based on your attitude in this class and this includes your attitude to other students — as well as your contributions (or lack of them) in class, and your willingness to tackle new material.

No food or drinks, except water in non-spillable containers, please.

Late work

Students are allowed one late test or paper during the term with a “free pass” **if the work is handed in by the next class period.**

NO work will be accepted more than one week after it is due.

Only one other late test or paper may be permitted – but only under extraordinary circumstances – and such late work will probably lose 10 points – 1 grade— for each late class period.

Cheating/ Plagiarism

Cheating and plagiarism are very serious academic offences, and evidence of either may result in either a “0” for a specific assignment and/or failure of the entire course.

There are many examples of both well written and plagiarized work available in the course folder and I am available to answer any questions regarding these points, so there is no reason to be confused.

Just ask if you need help!

Definitions of academic misconduct and the sanctions available in cases thereof are available both in the course folder (Academic Misconduct.doc) or by clicking on http://www.gc.maricopa.edu/English/plagiarism_policy.html, which is copied from the GCC Student Handbook.

General/ Disability Accommodations

You may not tape our classes, but if you do have any particular problem which may make learning more difficult for you, **please** do come and see me and we will see how we can work together to help you to succeed. If you have a disability that may have some impact on your work in the class and for which you require accommodations, you need to notify the Disability Services and Resources office, located in TDS 100. Their phone number is 623-845-3080.

Withdrawal

Maricopa Community College District policy has, for years, stated that a faculty member may withdraw a student who has accumulated "unofficial" absences in excess of the number of times that a class meets per week. Now, I will use this authority to withdraw students at my discretion, but generally **three absences means withdrawal.**

PLEASE contact Dr. Lane or me if you are even thinking about withdrawing.

We want you to succeed!

Required texts, etc.

Supplied book: The Language Police Diane Ravitsch

I have bought a copy for each student to borrow for this term.

Books to be bought (and used in this order):

<u>The Sledding Hill</u>	Crutcher	ISBN 978-0-06-050245-4
<u>Lysistrata</u>	Aristophanes	ISBN 10 0-87220-603-3
<u>Medea</u>	Euripides	ISBN 1-59986-911-X
<u>All Quiet on the Western Front</u>	Remarque	ISBN 978-0-449-211394-0
<u>The Things They Carried</u>	O'Brien	ISBN 978-0-7679-0289-2
<u>The Book Thief</u>	Zusak	ISBN 978-0-375-84220-7
<u>Electric Michelangelo</u>	Hall	ISBN 978-0-06-081724-4
<u>Broken April</u>	Kadare	ISBN 978-1-56131-065-4

Various handouts will also be distributed, and information MAY be found in the Course Folder. You can see the way to the Folder in Blackboard > Course Materials.

Coursework

Papers

The papers will be YOUR turn to provide interesting points to ponder.

Please feel free to include illustrations, photocopies, or whatever extra material you choose to make your point(s) as clearly as possible.

Please submit electronic copies of your papers to me as well as paper copies.

If you make egregious errors on your papers (for example, submitting no copies of your sources, using all general internet sources and the like, such as simply cutting and pasting your paper or quoting more than ¼ of your paper, the papers will probably be returned uncorrected and graded as a "0." If I do grade an improved version of your paper, your first score of "0" will likely be averaged with your second grade.

Please be sure to take advantage of the GCC library and its facility for interlibrary loans. The library homepage lists many types of research assistance, including the opportunity to post a question online for a GCC librarian.

You may receive help with your writing not only by visiting me, but by making an appointment at the Writing Center in HT2,

<http://www.gc.maricopa.edu/English/writingcenter/> ,

<http://www.gc.maricopa.edu/English/writingcenter/gccn.html> or through the GCC Online Writing Center, <http://www.gc.maricopa.edu/EWC/>.

Either or both of your required papers may written collectively and handed in for a group grade. This is purely voluntary and EACH member of a participating group will receive EXACTLY the same grade.

What Makes this an Honors Class? High Standards and Imaginative Responses!

One of the concepts behind an Honors class is a sort of raising of the intellectual bar — a presumption that Honors students should stretch a little farther and dig a little deeper in their studies. Another good idea — though it doesn't apply only to Honors students — is that it is helpful for students to build a little community in their classes, a community that may be initially based on academics, but which may come to include much more.

In order to foster these ideas, I want to emphasize again the importance of your imagination and participation in this class, and I will be “encouraging” participation in three formal ways: More information about these imaginative options will be provided as we move through the class.

- ◆ Writing in the Class Blogs
- ◆ Interviews (in pairs)
- ◆ A Creative Thinking Project

2 last comments:

This course is designed to encourage critical thinking but NOT to promote any particular view of the world.

Be sure to do your reading! The first texts are quite straightforward, but they do get more complex, and if you aren't caught up, you are sure to have real difficulties!

Grading

Grades will be made up like this:

1 short paper — MAX 600 words (app 2 pgs)	100 points	Due Th 10/29
1 longer paper — MAX 750 words, but use 1 source	200 points	Due T 12/1
Midterm	100 points	
Final	200 points	
Assorted Blogs	200 points	
Interview	50 points	
Creative Thinking Project	100 points	
Attendance and attitude	50 points	

1000- 900=A; 899-800 B; 799-700 C etc.

LASTLY, here is a grade calculation tool:

<http://web.gccaz.edu/English/Tools/GradeCalculator.htm>

Don't get caught misunderstanding what your work is worth!

Other grade calculation tools are in the Course Folder and in Blackboard.

Anticipated class schedule

Please do be aware that developments in coursework may require changes to the schedule and keeping abreast of the schedule is your responsibility.

Date	Activities and topics	Readings
Aug 25	An introduction to the class (including the syllabus) and each other; Identifying and clarifying values HW: Continue w/ clarifying values Begin <u>The Sledding Hill</u>	<u>S Hill</u> 1-28 (min) 1-60 is better
27	Continue values explorations; Clarify challenging and banning Brainstorming levels of activism Any <u>Hill</u> questions? HW: Finish Hill; read Montini B#1 Discuss one quotation or issue in preparation for Tuesday's class. Blogs should usually be at least 100 words "Blogspots" can be found in our course in Blackboard	Finish <u>Hill</u>

T Sept 1	Discuss <u>Hill</u> ; How do we identify perception? Bias? What does it mean to ban books on "social grounds"? Refining Thursday's discussion HW: Prepare for an informal debate on not/banning <u>Hill</u> Read: "Forbidden Hollywood"	Read: "Forbidden Hollywood"
3	<u>Hill</u> debate Discuss "Hollywood" HW: B#2 Two part reflection: 1 back<- -> 1 forward	Read: "Justice Holmes"
-----	(Mon Sept 7 Labor Day Holiday)	
8	Guest lecture: Professor Larry Bohlender HW: <u>Language Police</u> Chapters 1 and 2 (please don't write in "your" book)	<u>L Police</u> 3-30
10	Discuss <u>LP</u>	

	HW: <u>L Pol</u> Chap 5	<u>LP</u> 62-78

15	Discuss <u>LP</u> - the Right HW: <u>L Pol</u> Chap 6 B#4 2 reasons why the Left is right 2 reasons why the Left is wrong Print out your blog for Thursday	<u>LP</u> 79-96
17	Discuss <u>LP</u> - the Left HW: <u>Lysistrata</u> : Commentary 3 <u>Medea</u> – the ENTIRE play B#5 List and defend 1 argument on BOTH Medea’s and Jason’s behalf	<u>Lysis</u> 98-109 <u>Medea</u> all

22	Discuss <u>Medea</u> HW: <u>Lysistrata</u> and at least Commentary 2 pgs 96-97	<u>Lysis</u> all and 96-97
24	Guest lecture: Professor Virginia Ludders	

29	Guest Lecture: Ed McKennon GCC librarian	
Th Oct 1	Field trip to the Quad: Reading Banned Books (Optional Blog: Thoughts on the Reading Experience) HW: Begin <u>All Quiet on the Western Front</u>	1-136

6	Discuss <u>All Quiet</u> Part One HW: Conclude <u>All Q</u>	137-end
8	Discuss <u>All Q</u> Part Two HW: <u>The Things They Carried</u> : These chapters: “The Things They Carried” -26 “How to Tell a True War Story” 6-85 “Lives of the Dead” 225-246 (end of the book) B#7 (Private) Try to guess whether <u>Things</u> was banned and explain why you would dis/agree	65 pages (in three chapters)

13	<p>Discuss <u>Things</u>, (remembering <u>Lysistrata</u> and <u>All Q</u>)</p> <p>HW: “Bonfire of the Liberties” and probably start <u>The Book Thief</u></p> <p>B#8 This blog is designed to help you with your papers. Look carefully at the instructions!</p> <p>Paper #1 is due Thursday, Oct 29!!!! ☺</p>	<p><u>BT</u> 3-107</p>
15	<p>“Bonfire” and Presenting your Paper Ideas!</p> <p>HW: Definitely read <u>Book Thief</u> Part One</p>	<p><u>BT</u> 3-107</p>

	<p>November 3 and 5 are to be decided: What order would you like to do these in? Let’s choose now! Meanwhile, see below...</p>	
20	<p>Discuss <u>B Thief</u> Part One</p> <p>HW: <u>BT</u> Part Two</p>	<p><u>BT</u> 205-303</p>
22	<p>Discuss <u>BT</u> Part Two</p> <p>HW: <u>BT</u> Part Three</p> <p>B#9 Group Blogs to help us w/ <u>BT</u> Directions on the blog page.</p>	<p><u>BT</u> 304-419</p>

27	<p>Discuss <u>BT</u> Part Three with the help of the blogs!</p> <p>HW: <u>BT</u> Part Four</p>	<p><u>BT</u> 420-550 (end)</p>
29	<p>Discuss <u>BT</u> Part Four and finish! Whew!</p>	

Nov 3	<p>Interview Presentations: Our Six-Minute Specials!</p>	
5	<p>Midterm: Specifics also to be decided — Perhaps four questions will be presented: you choose two? We’ll see!</p> <p>HW: <u>The Electric Michelangelo</u> Part One</p>	<p>1-69</p>

10	<p>Discuss <u>EM</u> Part One</p> <p>HW: <u>EM</u> Part Two</p>	<p>69-81</p>
Nov 11	<p>Veterans’ Day: Campus Closed</p>	
12	<p>Discuss <u>EM</u> Part Two</p> <p>HW: <u>EM</u> Part Three</p>	<p>155-230</p>

	B#10 What will help you? Contents to be announced!	

	Paper #2 is due Tuesday, Dec 1!	
17	Discuss <u>EM</u> Part Three HW: <u>EM</u> Part Four	230-299
19	<u>Discuss</u> EM Part Four HW: <u>EM</u> Part Five	299-337 (end)

24	Conclude <u>EM</u> ! Wow! HW: <u>Broken April</u> Part One Paper #2 is due next Tuesday!	1-86
	Thanksgiving is Thursday and Friday! Enjoy!	

Dec 1	Discuss <u>Broken April</u> Part One HW: <u>BA</u> Part Two B#11 Let's decide again what will help!	86-155
3	Discuss <u>BA</u> Part Two HW: <u>BA</u> Part Three B#12 Please submit 2 or 3 questions for the Final. Imagine that a question could be dealt with reasonably in about half and hour.	156-216 (end)

8	Discuss <u>BA</u> Part Three and finish!	
10	Final Exam!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Much is still to be contemplated! ☺	

Thursday DEC 17	Creative Thinking Project Presentations (and accompanying short texts)	11-12:50
	Many thanks for a wonderful term!	