FYS 003: Banned Books: Ideology, Suppression, Censorship
Fall 2015    M/W 12:30-1:45

Professor Beth Younger
Office: Howard 225
e-mail: beth.younger@drake.edu
office hours: M/W 2:00-3:30 and Thursday 1:00-3:00

Course Description & Goals
This FYS will explore, examine, and analyze the practice, function, and ideology of what is commonly known as “book banning.” Often, books are challenged with the best intentions—to protect others (frequently children) from difficult or “offensive” ideas and information. In order to understand these practices and the ideology behind them, we will read banned and challenged books as well as essays and articles on the topic. The course will focus on the social and cultural ideologies that motivate the restriction of reading materials, primarily in the United States. Throughout the semester, we will try to answer various questions about censorship: What kinds of materials are considered “offensive?” Why do some groups (or individuals) try to restrict access to certain books? What are the motivations of these groups, and what are the functions of censorship? We will also grapple with questions of literary and social value, feminism, sexuality, language, and representation.

Required Course Materials
The Perks of Being a Wallflower, Stephen Chbosky
The Handmaid’s Tale, Margaret Atwood
Forever, Judy Blume
The Miseducation of Cameron Post, Emily Danforth
Speak, Laurie Halse Anderson
A Writer’s Reference, Diana Hacker (required)
course packet (available at Copy Cat)

Participation
First Year Seminars are designed to help facilitate your successful transition to college level study, and each student is an important component of the learning experience. Participation includes doing all of the assigned reading and writing, but reading the material is just the first step. Please use your voice to ask questions, make points, and discuss your perceptions and ideas. Dialogue and discussion are required and are integral aspects of the course.

Attendance and other course policies
Attendance and promptness are expected. It is important that you understand that I DO NOT distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. I allow two absences without penalty; if you are absent more than twice, whatever the reason, I reserve the right to lower your course grade by one letter grade per absence. A total of five absences over the semester automatically result in your failure of the course. If you are absent, check with a classmate for any materials you missed-do not email or call me and ask what we covered.

NOTE: The use of cell phones for texting, checking FB, or any purpose is very disruptive and will not be tolerated (unless otherwise stated). Unauthorized use will negatively affect your course grade, and you may be asked to leave and will be marked absent. No laptops allowed unless office of disability services mandates it.
**Course Requirements and Grading**
Three papers will be assigned throughout the semester. These writings are designed to help you get used to the process of analytical and critical writing. In these papers you will be asked to engage with the texts in this course in a variety of ways, including doing research.

Each of you will be responsible for a presentation in which you will present your research on a topic related to book banning, freedom of speech, or censorship. Your presentation should focus on a critical overview of the book, the event, and/or the outcome.

One final essay of 6-8 pages will be required. This essay will be your opportunity to demonstrate your engagement with the course materials and with your experience of this FYS. We will discuss this project and the requirements for fulfilling this assignment at length in class.

Note: I will provide an assignment sheet for each assignment. All assignments must be completed in order to pass the course. Also, late assignments will be penalized one full letter grade for each calendar day of lateness. There will be no exceptions.

**Grade Distribution**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>daily</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Papers (10% each)</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Essay</td>
<td>Dec. 11</td>
<td>30%</td>
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**Plagiarism**
Plagiarism can be defined as the presentation of another’s work as your own, whether by intention or by accident. Failure to acknowledge and cite a source is plagiarism. So is using a paper you’ve written for another class, or having a friend substantially edit your paper. And most definitely downloading a paper from the Internet is plagiarism. Plagiarism is a serious academic (and legal) offense and will result in your failure of this course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the University. As a matter of college policy, all incidents of plagiarism are reported to the Dean of A & S and to the dean of the student’s college (if not A & S).

**Sexual Assault:**
The Coordinator for Sexual Violence Response and Healthy Relationship Promotion’s primary role is to act as a resource for students who have been subjected to interpersonal [gender] violence including sexual assault/harassment, dating/domestic violence, gender-based discrimination, and stalking and will advocate on behalf of the student victim’s requests if services are voluntarily initiated. The coordinator can explain how to initiate a complaint within the university and through criminal/civil processes, assist with referrals to a confidential crisis advocate and/or counselor and appropriate medical or legal professionals. The coordinator must report “known” student campus assaults to the Dean of Students and/or Title IX Coordinator, but the complainant still has rights to participate or withdraw from the university process. Other services include providing crisis intervention (safety plan, crisis counseling, rights information), and assistance in academic and housing accommodations as needed. To contact the coordinator, Alysa Mozak, call 515-271-4141 or email alysa.mozak@drake.edu. The Violence Intervention Partner (V.I.P.) program through this office provides peer-based 24/7 confidential advocacy services. To access a V.I.P. advocate call or text 515-512-2972. For more information about these services visit www.drake.edu/sexual-assault/