

English 4381: Banned Books

Instructor: Dr. Gabriela Serrano

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Office Hours: TR: 11:00 a.m - 1:00 p.m., or by appointment

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Course Description

This course is dedicated to the study of books that have been challenged and/or banned from school districts in the United States. We will study the historical, cultural, and political context for such texts and consider why they have been found offensive by certain individuals. We will also discuss intellectual freedom, censorship, and advocacy in relation to banned books.

Texts:

Bless Me, Ultima: ISBN-13 : 978-0446600255

The Hate U Give: ISBN-13 : 978-0062498540

Maus I: ISBN-13 : 978-0394747231

And Tango Makes Three: ISBN-13 : 978-1481446952

Your Semester Grade

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Discussion Board | 10% |
| Reading Quizzes | 10% |
| Research Assignment | 10% |
| Midterm Exam | 20% |
| Seminar Paper | 30% |
| Final Exam | 20% |

Discussion Posts

Discussion posts are vital because allow us to mimic a face-to-face classroom experience. They allow students and the instructor to exchange ideas and learn from one another. These posts will be due at the end of the week, and although students must post at least one comment per week, except on weeks when I have scheduled an exam, they may post as many times as they wish and respond to as many posts as they like. Although I encourage students to feel free to voice their opinions when they relate to the subject being discussed, **I expect members of this class to respect and show concern for all members of the class when participating in these discussion boards.**

Research Assignments

A seminar paper takes an entire semester to work on, so students need to begin work on the paper as soon as the class begins. Every-other week, students will complete work that will aid them in the research and writing of the paper.

- Annotated Bibliography – A list of **ten sources** with a complete bibliographical citation for a critical work followed by two sentences explaining the overall argument of the critical work.
- Abstract – a paragraph explaining the overall argument of the seminar paper. The abstract must have a clear thesis statement.
- Outline – a two page outline that clearly describes the major topics and subtopics that will be discussed in the paper. The outline must be organized and well-developed.

Reading Quizzes

Reading quizzes will cover the assigned readings due for the week, and they will be due at the end of the week. I will drop the lowest quiz grade at the end of the semester.

Exams

There are two exams over the course of the semester:

- The **Midterm Exam** Students will answer their choice of 2 of 3 essay questions that cover the readings up to the point of the midterm. Each question is worth 50 points.
- The **Final Exam** Students will answer their choice of 2 of 3 essay questions that cover the readings after the midterm up to the point of the final exam. Each question is worth 50 points.

Seminar Paper

This paper is a longer, individual paper (8-10 pages) over one or more major text(s) we will be evaluating over the semester. Students will use the Research Assignments they work on over the course of the summer session and apply their research to this paper. Students will consult the ALA website and include information on legislation related to the text(s) discussed in the paper. Students are expected to read, evaluate, and respond to the text(s) critically and deepen their understanding of the text(s). Students must include at least **five citations** in their paper, and will preferably come from sources in the Annotated Bibliography, but they may be different sources. (see MLA Handbook for guidelines or the OWL at Purdue:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>)

Use of Technology

Assignments must be uploaded on Blackboard as WORD documents. **I will not accept excuses for any technical difficulties students may have with their assignments**, which include computers crashing, difficulty uploading papers, Blackboard shutting down, etc. This is an online course, and **students must have a competent knowledge of Blackboard**. In addition, students need to make sure to give themselves enough time after finishing their assignments to manage any of these technical difficulties. I will not accept any assignments via email because it is a violation of your rights as students for me to discuss grades via email. Make sure to upload all assignments in the designated content area labeled "Assignments" on Blackboard.

Departmental Policy on Academic Honesty

Angelo State University expects its students to maintain complete honesty and integrity in their academic pursuits. Students are responsible for understanding the Academic Honor Code, which is contained in both print and web versions of the Student Handbook http://www.angelo.edu/cstudent/documents/pdf/Student_Handbook.pdf. Failure to comply with the honor code will result in disciplinary action and a failing grade in this course.

I will assign a grade of "F" for the following violations:

- I. Plagiarism "the appropriation and the unacknowledged incorporation of another's work or idea into one's own work offered for credit" (Regents' *Rules and Regulations*, Chapter VI, Section 5.32)
- II. Cheating - this includes copying material from another member of the class, having someone in or outside of class complete an assignment or exam for you.

Students with Special

Persons with disabilities which may warrant academic accommodations must contact the Student Life Office, Room 112

Needs University Center, in order to request such accommodations prior to any accommodations being implemented.

Schedule of Readings, Lectures, Assignments, and Exams (Tentative and Subject to Change)

Week 1

Lectures

The American Literature Association and Banned Books
Maus I

Assignments due 6/12:

Discussion Board Post
Reading Quiz

Week 2

Lectures

Bless Me, Ultima
Exerpts from Underrepresented Groups

Assignments due 6/19:

Reading Quiz
Research Assignment consisting of the following:

Abstract (250 Words)
Annotated Bibliography (10 sources)
Outline (2 pp)

Week 3

Lectures

The Hate U Give
Excerpts from Young Adult Literature
Midterm Review

Assignments due 6/26:

Reading Quiz
Discussion Board Post
Midterm Exam

Week 4

Lectures

And Tango Makes Three
Excerpts from Children's Literature

Assignments due 7/1:

Reading Quiz
Discussion Board Post
Summer Seminar Paper due

Week 5

Lectures

Students' Choice

Review for Final Exam

Final Exam due on July 8 by 12:00 p.m.