

ENGL 02-499-01 SENIOR SEMINAR: “BANNED”-IT BOOKS & OUTLAW SUBJECTS



Who: Dr. Yvonne Hammond

Where: Bunce 332

When: Tuesdays & Thursdays, 2-3:15pm

Registration Details: CRN 40214

Traditional messages about US-American identity often highlight America as a refuge, a nation driven by acceptance and diversity, a project of universal design. Yet, contemporary contexts have revealed a growing counter-narrative interrogating the limits of social acceptance, particularly as it impacts what students study. This course will look more closely into outlaw subjects, specifically critical race theory, genocide, and queerness, alongside banned literary texts chosen for their elevation of under-represented US cultures and voices. Our driving research questions will grapple with what it means to exist as “other” in the United States, while working towards defining and understanding controversial theories/subjects. We will work to understand why a book might be banned and, of course, why it shouldn’t.

A Few of Our Topics:

- Defining CRT: Why are we afraid to talk about race?
- Homogeny and Silenced Voices: Holocaust and Genocide in the US and Abroad
- ‘Don’t Say Gay’: Gender & Sexuality in the Classroom
- ‘Bodies that Matter’: Disability and Matters of Universal Design
- Who Decides?: Literary Education & Canon

Potential Literary Texts:

- Art Spiegelman, *Maus*
- Harper Lee, *To Kill a Mockingbird*
- Sherman Alexie, *Diary of a Part-Time Indian*
- Louis Lowry, *The Giver*
- Maia Kobabe, *Gender Queer*
- Jeanette Walls, *The Glass Castle*
- Alice Walker, *The Color Purple*
- Octavia Butler, *Kindred*
- Walter Dean Myers, *Monster*
- And others: James Baldwin, Laura Halse Anderson, Richard Wright, Louise Erdrich, Toni Morrison, Roxanne Gay, Dorothy Allison, Ibram X. Kendi