

Syllabus

Course Information

- Semester and Year: Fall 2026
- Course Title: Banned Books and Censorship in the U.S.
- Course Prefix and Number: ENH 295
- Section Number: 18423
- Credit Hours: 3
- Start Date: 8 Sep. 2026
- End Date: 18 Dec. 2026
- Class Format: Online

Instructor Information

- Instructor: Matthew Bloom
- Email: matthew.bloom@scottsdalecc.edu (preferred)
- Phone: 4804236454 (not preferred)
- Office Location: LC337
- Office Hours: Mon./Wed., 1:00-3:00pm; Tue. 2:00-3:00pm

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 and/or Corequisites

None, but strong reading and writing skills are recommended.

Course Competencies

1. Explain the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution as it relates to literature and other printed materials.
2. Identify and explain factors that motivate people and organizations to challenge and/or ban books.
3. Identify and describe the effects of censorship on readers, writers, publishers, educators, and librarians.
4. Explain and exemplify uses of censorship by a dominant culture to suppress minority voices.

5. Read and analyze examples of banned or challenged literature dealing with issues of gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, religion, and political perspective.
6. Analyze and present results of independent reading of a text chosen from the American Library Association's list of Most Challenged Books, 1990-2000.
7. Work as part of a team to compose arguments for and against banning or challenging a selected text with a controversial history.
8. Articulate a personal position on the issue of censorship of printed materials, and identify national organizations that promote or oppose censorship.

General Education & Institutional Learning Outcomes

General Education provides foundational learning experiences that contribute to academic and career success. It is reflected in [Scottsdale Community College's Institutional Learning Outcomes](#): Arts & Humanities Awareness, Career Readiness, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving, Effective Communication, Information Literacy, and Social Responsibility. Students who take ENH 295 will learn strategies for analyzing literature in controversial cultural contexts, applying critical thinking to analyze instances of book banning, and describe arguments for and against the First Amendment with respect to

Program Learning Outcomes

Credit-bearing courses at Scottsdale Community College can count toward the completion of a degree or certificate program. Each program has Program Learning Outcomes, which are learned assets that students can claim to have acquired by completing their academic or occupational program at SCC. Program Learning Outcomes can be found on the [Degrees and Certificates page](#) of the SCC Website. For each degree, look under "What You'll Learn."

ENH 295 fulfills the following General Education Designations: Arts and Humanities - [AHM]; Cultural Diversity - [C]; Humanities, Arts and Design - [HU]

Texts and Course Materials

Required: **email, computer access**

In this class, students have a lot of control about how they pursue their investigations about banned books and censorship. On more than one occasion, you get to choose what you read (from a specified list). It is possible to complete all required assignments without purchasing a book, since each module contains at least one investigation track in which all necessary texts are available for free online. However, you may choose to take a track that will require that you get your hands on a copy of a book (or books) that isn't available for free online. In this case, you should take appropriate measures to ensure that you have the book(s) you need on time, whether you get them from a library or purchase a copy for yourself. See the "Overview of Course Reading / Investigation Tracks" at the end of Module Zero for more information.

Course Policies

The following are policies specific to this course. Students are also responsible for the college policies included on the [Student Regulations](#) page of the Maricopa Community College District website.

Incomplete and Late Work

You are expected to submit all journal posts, class discussions, quizzes, and projects complete and on time. "Complete" means everything specified in the guidelines. Incomplete work may not be graded. "On time" means by midnight on the date the assignment is due. Late work may not be accepted.

Post Format

All blog posts and discussion forum posts should be written in complete sentences and follow the basic rules of English grammar and mechanics. I do not intend to pull out a red pen (figuratively) and dock points for every little "mistake" I notice, but if your writing is very sloppy or unclear, you may lose some points.

Appropriate Use/Reuse of Content

Most students get all the way through college without learning anything about how copyright and intellectual property work in the real world. In coursework, students can usually get away with presenting material no matter where they found it because they are often repurposing the material in a very limited way (e.g. in a submitted essay or classroom presentation). However, this kind of "fair use" of other people's intellectual property is not as acceptable outside of the classroom context. Since the part of the purpose of going to college is to prepare you for the "real world," some of the assignments/projects in this course will require that any content (text, image, etc.) borrowed from an external source be used according to an appropriate intellectual property license. In other words, any content you use (on certain assignments) would need to be used in a way that would be legal should you turn around and make your work public. Without going into the details here, the basic idea is that some materials online are explicitly licensed for certain kinds of reuse and remixing, for example, is licensed in this way and you are allowed to use that content as long as you follow the requirements of the. Of course, we'll want to avoid citing Wikipedia in most cases, but it is a good idea to consult [Creative Commons](#) for information on how and where to get and use openly-licensed material.

To be clear, this discussion about appropriate use of content is related to but very different from the concepts of plagiarism or academic dishonesty as described in the [Student Regulations](#).

Attendance Policy

Attendance is measured by your activity in the class, including regular completion of weekly coursework and participation in group projects. **You should plan to participate at least three times throughout a given week.** In many cases throughout the semester, waiting until the

end of the week to complete that week's material will cause you to lose points because you won't have been making ongoing contribution to discussions. If you are inactive in the course (i.e. not completing assignments and not contacting the instructor) for more than two weeks, you may be withdrawn due to inactivity.

You are expected to participate cooperatively, constructively, and to the best of your ability in all class and online activities, including online discussion forums and journal posts. In order to participate, you must be prepared--complete all class readings before joining any class discussion. If you "come to class" unprepared, you may lose discussion/journal points.

Instructional Contact Hours and Minimum Course Expectations

Instructional contact hours are the weekly time students spend directly learning with their instructor or course activities. These activities include, but are not limited to, lectures, discussions, labs, group work, and viewing recordings. Instructional contact hours vary by course; refer to the [MCCCD course bank](#) for your course's details.

Minimum course expectations include the number of hours students are expected to spend outside of class (weekly) completing coursework. Students are encouraged to use the [Time Management Calculator](#) to help estimate their weekly time commitment for classes.

Course Technologies

View the [Accessibility Statements & Privacy Policies](#) of the technologies used in this course. The [SCC Help Desk](#) provides students with a primary point of contact within SCC for college-supported technology services and technical assistance.

Maricopa Systems

This course uses key Maricopa systems for course management and communication.

- Canvas Learning Management System
- Student Maricopa Gmail Account
- Maricopa Open Educational Resource Learning System (MOER)

Student Assignment Tools

This course requires students to participate in or submit assignments using desktop or cloud-based applications.

- Google Products
- [Microsoft Office 365](#)
- [Adobe Creative Cloud](#)

Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy

The World Economic Forum defines generative AI as “a category of artificial intelligence (AI) algorithms that generate new outputs based on the data they have been trained on. Unlike

traditional AI systems that are designed to recognize patterns and make predictions, generative AI creates new content in the form of images, text, audio, and more.”

Some examples of generative AI tools include but are not limited to: ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Microsoft Copilot, Stable Diffusion, GrammarlyGo, and Adobe Firefly.

Some Generative Artificial Intelligence (AI) Allowed in Specific Circumstances

There are situations and contexts within this course where you may be permitted to use generative AI tools. In these cases, specific guidelines will be provided in the assignment details. If you are unsure if the tool or website you are using is a generative AI tool or if it is permitted on a specific assignment, please contact the instructor for further clarification before submitting your work.

Grading Standards and Practices

Grade Scale

Table 1 Course Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Points Range
A	90 – 100%
B	80 – 89%
C	70 – 79%
D	60 – 69%
F	0 – 59%

Assignments

Table 2 List of Assignments

Assignment Name	Points	Percent of Grade
Cover Redesign Project	50	5%
Quizzes	50	5%
Discussions	150	15%
Journals	150	15%
Major Cases Group Project	200	20%
Individual Investigation Project	200	20%
TOTAL:		100%

Student/Instructor Interaction

In this course, you can expect regular and substantive interaction (RSI) that aligns with Scottsdale Community College's mission to provide challenging and supportive learning experiences and the US Department of Education's requirement for regular and substantive interaction (RSI) for online courses. My commitment to your success includes the following:

- Being available during regularly scheduled office hours as stated in the syllabus.
- Sharing weekly information about the course materials, including key information, explanations, examples, and resources via in-person, recorded, and/or text-based lectures.
- Engaging in weekly discussions about course content within discussion boards in Canvas, forums in MOER, or other discussion-based tools.
- Providing group or individual feedback regularly on assignments.
- Promptly responding to student questions about the course sent via email or the Canvas inbox.
- Regularly posting announcements about the course content and activities.
- Monitor your academic progress and communicate concerns, as needed.

Response Time

Students can expect a response time of **24-48 hours** for the instructor to respond to messages sent via the Canvas Learning Management System or @maricopa.edu email. Students can expect assignments to be graded within **two weeks** of the assignment's due date.

Tutoring

SCC's tutors are available online to help with your courses. You may work with an SCC tutor remotely using Google Meet, your phone, or email. Visit the [Tutoring & Learning Centers](#) page for detailed information on the five learning centers' hours and procedures.

If you need to work with a tutor outside regular hours, online and hybrid students now have access to a 24/7 online tutoring service called Brainfuse. To access Brainfuse and begin working with a tutor, visit the [SCC Online Tutoring Services Through Brainfuse](#) page.

MCCCD Policies

MCCCD is committed to providing a safe, fair, and accessible environment for all students. This includes laws such as the ADA and Title IX, which protect against discrimination. These statements explain your rights, available support, and where to go for help or more information. Please review the following policies:

Classroom Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the Maricopa County Community College District (MCCCD) and its associated colleges are committed to providing equitable access to learning opportunities to students with documented disabilities (e.g. physical, sensory, neurological, chronic illness, mental health, learning disabilities, or other health

concerns). If you require accommodations for this course, please contact [Disability Resources and Services](#) (DRS) at your college.

Contact with [DRS](#) should be made as soon as possible to ensure academic needs are met in a reasonable time. Additional information can be found in the [Non-Discrimination Statement](#) and [MCCCD Non-Discrimination Policies](#).

[Addressing Incidents of Title IX Sexual Harassment](#)

Students are responsible for the information contained in this syllabus, the Syllabus page in the Canvas course, and the College Policies & Student Services page located under SCC Student Resources in the Canvas course navigation menu. The instructor will notify students of any changes to course requirements or policies.