

Humanities Center Seeking Faculty Fellows for 2024-2025

BANNED BOOKS AND CENSORSHIP

The Humanities Center of the University of Hartford requests applications from full-time faculty interested in becoming one of the Faculty Fellows of the Humanities Center for the 2024-25 academic year by offering a lecture focused on their own project related to the seminar topic of “**Banned Books and Censorship**” during the spring 2025 Humanities Lecture Series. **Ayelet Brinn**, Assistant Professor of Judaic Studies and History, will lead the Humanities Seminar for this next year. She requests applications for faculty fellows from all disciplines and colleges in the University.

Here is the description of the seminar:

Recent years have witnessed a rise in attempts to ban or remove books from schools, libraries, and other institutions throughout the United States. According to the American Library Association, 2022 saw more attempts to ban books from libraries than any time in the past twenty years, almost doubling the number from 2021. However, the impulse to ban, censor, or burn, or redact passages from written texts has a much longer history, both in the United States and abroad. While the desire to ban certain texts emerges from specific political, cultural, and historical contexts, overall, these efforts have tended to focus on texts that stretch contemporary social boundaries in their depictions of race, sexuality, politics, gender, religion, and science. By understanding banned books and censored materials within their historical context, and by comparing and contrasting the treatment of different texts across time and space, we can better understand the relationship between power, culture, and literacy in society at large.

Possible topics for proposals:

- How schools have reacted to calls to censor or ban items
- Rhetorical analysis of arguments for and against banning and censorship
- Exploring the relationship of bans and censorship to changing understandings of gender, sexuality, religion, science, and race
- Censorship and self-censorship under the Hays Code in Hollywood
- Graphic novels, music and artworks as banned texts/media
- Analyses of supreme court cases in the United States that relate to censorship and free speech
- Ethics of storytelling and journalism
- Ethics of censorship of material for children vs. adults

We would be looking for proposals from faculty in art, art history, architecture, music, dance, communication, health professions, cinema, theatre, psychology, business, history, sociology and criminal justice, philosophy, literature and rhetoric, politics, education, and STEM.

The advantages and responsibilities of being a Faculty Fellow include the following:

- Faculty Fellows will be working on a scholarly or pedagogical project in a context that will offer encouragement and a testing site for the development of their ideas. Successful applicants will address how the research produced during the fellowship will be disseminated beyond the Humanities Center (a publication, conference presentation, curricular development, etc.).
- Each Fellow will give a talk as part of the Spring 2025 series of lectures associated with that year's theme. The lecture will give each Fellow an opportunity to present their work on the project. Lectures will be Wednesday evenings at 5:00.
- Fellows receive a stipend of \$1,500 to enable them to read, write, do research and prepare their spring lecture.
- Fellows are encouraged to attend the Wednesday evening talks by other fellows during the spring lecture series.

All faculty interested in becoming a Faculty Fellow of the Humanities Center for the 2024-25 academic year, please email a one-page proposal that describes the focus of your project as it is related to the course topic, "Banned Books and Censorship," and the material to be addressed in your spring talk, along with a CV, to Nicholas Ealy (ealy@hartford.edu) and Ayelet Brinn (brinn@hartford.edu) **no later than April 12, 2024**. If you have questions, please email Nicholas Ealy, Humanities Center director.

For more information about the Humanities Center at UHart, visit our website [here](#).