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**Joan DeFattore** holds a Ph.D. in English from The Pennsylvania State University, with a specialty in modern American literature and culture. A member of the UD faculty since 1979, she holds a joint appointment in English and Legal Studies. Her research focuses on intellectual freedom issues such as free speech and freedom of religion. Her first book, What Johnny Shouldn't Read: Textbook Censorship in America (Yale, 1992), won awards from the American Library Association, the American Educational Research Association, and the Gustavus Myers Center. Her other books include The Fourth R: Conflicts Over Religion in America's Public Schools (Yale, 2004) and the forthcoming The Myth of Academic Freedom in America. Recent articles appear in such journals as the University of Pennsylvania Journal of Constitutional Law and the Rutgers Law School's Journal on Law and Religion. She has received three research grants from the Spencer Foundation and is regularly invited to speak before such groups as the Association of American Publishers, American Library Association, and Modern Language Association. She thoroughly enjoys both undergraduate and graduate teaching; her courses range from sophomore surveys in drama, short story, and American literature to senior and graduate seminars on intellectual freedom and American culture. She has been teaching in the MALS program since the late 1980s and now has the privilege of serving as its director.

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

#### **MALS 667: Nobody Expects the Spanish Inquisition: An Interdisciplinary Study of Intellectual Freedom**

We all value freedom of thought and expression, but what exactly does that mean? How has that concept evolved over time, and how can it be operationalized in a diverse society? This course uses history, literature, and law to explore a few of the best-known disputes over intellectual freedom in Western culture. In studying the Inquisition, we'll read excerpts from the trials of Joan of Arc and Galileo as well as medieval instruction manuals on how to conduct an inquisition. We'll also examine modern interpretations of the Inquisition, including Edgar Allan Poe's "The Pit and the Pendulum," George Bernard Shaw's Saint Joan, Bertolt Brecht's Galileo,

and Umberto Eco's The Name of the Rose. Similarly, we'll read historical background on the Salem witch trials as well as selections from the actual trial transcripts. Arthur Miller's The Crucible forms a bridge between Salem and the McCarthy era, which we'll study by means of newsreels, historical documents, and Supreme Court decisions about the free-speech rights of communists. For the study of contemporary disputes over racial and religious speech, we'll use news reports, filmed documentaries, lawsuits, and some of my own published work on that subject. Throughout the semester, students will have your choice of topics for a couple of short papers (2-3 pages) reflecting on the readings. (Eeeeeek!! is an understandable but insufficient response to some of them.) At the end of the semester, you'll have an opportunity to pursue your own interests in a final paper. To give a few ideas, you might wish to examine Gothic fiction that uses the Inquisition as a setting, highlights in the history of intellectual freedom other than those discussed in the course, disputes over the presentation of sex education or evolution in public schools, the Patriot Act, or Guantanamo Bay and resulting lawsuits.