

CENSORSHIP AND LITERATURE

2025

FRIDAY, MAY 9

12:20-14:00 PM



Books have always had the power to question, provoke, and inspire — and that's exactly why some have been banned, burned, or buried. James Joyce's Ulysses was once declared obscene and kept off shelves. Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn was exiled for exposing the brutal truth of Soviet camps in The Gulag Archipelago. Across time and countries, writers have risked everything just to tell their stories — and readers have fought back to keep those voices alive. Join us as we dive into the real stories behind banned books and explore why the fight for free words still matters today.

LJUBICA MATEK

Dr. Matek's talk will focus on the age-old practice of literary censorship as a means of social and cultural control.

Throughout history, the act of censorship has been directed at limiting freedom of speech and thought under the guise of protection of moral values. In addition to elaborating on the mechanisms and meaning of censorship, the talk will also provide several interesting examples that show how and why specific texts were designated as dangerous or immoral.

