The Liberal Arts Program presents

**Liberal Arts Guest Speaker Series**

“From “The police acted stupidly” to “There is never an excuse…”: The President, the Police, and the Public”

**Dr. Marianne Cotugno**

18 November 2014
12:00-1:00 pm
LH 238

**ABSTRACT INFO:**
This talk uses President Obama’s responses to two high profile cases involving law enforcement (the arrest of Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. in Cambridge, MA, and the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO) to encourage consideration of how law enforcement actions are understood by the public and how law enforcement shapes (and is shaped by) that response. Fundamental to these topics, and central to my talk, is the place of the incident report or “police report,” which I argue remains a crucial and frequently misunderstood document. Ultimately, I hope to demonstrate to attendees the important role we play as citizen educators, who can contribute in meaningful ways to public discourse about these, and related, events.

**BIO:**
Dr. Marianne Cotugno is Associate Professor of English at Miami University (OH) and serves as the Faculty Director of the Middletown campus. Her research and teaching focus on twentieth century American literature and technical communication.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**
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