LIS 611 Intellectual Freedom - Donna Bair-Mundy

Primary Student Learning Outcome: SLO2 Professions (Not core-eligible)

Prerequisites: None

Last ran: Fall 2015

Meeting days and location: Tuesdays, 5:00-7:30pm; HL 003G

Course objectives:

- Understand the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution as it pertains to censorship of information and speech in general and libraries and other information institutions in particular
- Understand the conceptual and practical bases of intellectual freedom and the core philosophical practices of anti-censorship adhered to within the information profession
- Understand and be able to apply intellectual freedom policies (particularly those of the American Library Association) to daily life and professional practices
- Understand the history of contemporary censorship and the influence of extremism
- Become familiar with the positions of pro- and anti-censorship coalitions and those who believe in pure freedom of speech and those who would curb such freedoms out of social responsibility
- Become familiar with cases of censorship, controversies that have received media attention (art and censorship, censorship of violent music lyrics, hate speech, flag burning, etc.) and patterns of book banning
- Become familiar with the issues of access to government information and censorship in the name of national security during war
- Become familiar with censorship issues concerning sexual materials and pronography (including on the Internet)
- Become familiar with Internet filtering initiatives and laws, particularly as pertaining to libraries

Required texts:

- Karolides, Nicholas J., Margaret Bald, and Dawn B. Sova. 2011. 120 banned books: Censorship histories of world literature. New York: Checkmark Books (Optional)

Required technology:

- Computer with a reliable internet-connection or mobile device with a high-speed connection

Teaching methods:

- Wide reading, group discussion, critical analysis, and oral and written assignments designed to promote these activities

Research methods:

- Historiography, case study, comparative
Major assignments:

- Five-minute presentation on an Intellectual Freedom resource
- Short reflection papers
- Censorship paper and presentation
- Final reflection paper on the role and necessary contents of an Intellectual Freedom policy for an information institution

ePortfolio-eligible assignment: N/A. This course was last run before the establishment of the ePortfolio capstone.