

## **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 pornography (including on the Internet)
- Become familiar with Internet filtering initiatives and laws, particularly as pertaining to libraries

### **Required texts:**

- Magi, Trima J., Martin Garnar, and American Library Association. Office for Intellectual Freedom. 2015. *Intellectual freedom manual, Ninth edition*. Chicago: ALA Editions, an imprint of the American Library Association. ISBN-13: 978-0-8389-1292-8.
- Karolides, Nicholas J., Margaret Bald, and Dawn B. Sova. 2011. *120 banned books: Censorship histories of world literature*. New York: Checkmark Books (Optional)
- Knuth, Rebecca. 2006. *Burning books and leveling libraries: Extremist violence and cultural destruction*. Westport, Conn.: Praeger. ISBN-13: 978-0275990077. ISBN-10: 0275990079.

### **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.