Overview

**Course Description:** Designed to be applicable to all types of libraries and information organizations, this course provides a deep look at intellectual freedom and related issues. We discuss how the core values of the profession can serve as a guide when faced with ethically challenging situations. We examine several issues related to intellectual freedom beyond the library.

**Contact Information:** I am most accessible through email: shannon.oltmann@uky.edu. As a general rule, I will respond to course-related email correspondence within 24 business hours (responses may be slower during the weekends and holidays). Please include the course number in brackets [xxx] in the subject line for all messages. I am happy to meet face to face or via technology with students, but you should set up the appointment in advance via email.

*Please note that class communication is done via your official UK email address and Canvas messaging. You must check both of these frequently.*

**Course Objectives:** At the end of the semester, students will be able to:
- Articulate the meaning and importance of intellectual freedom.
- Evaluate and respond to challenges to library materials.
- Analyze ethical issues that pertain to librarianship through an intellectual freedom lens.

**Assignments**

- Participation: 20% of final grade
- Core value essay: 15% of final grade
- Response to challenge: 20% of final grade
- Sharing core values: 20% of final grade
- Group presentation: 25% of final grade
Summary of module schedule and due dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Assignment due (last day of module)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Module 1</td>
<td>Intellectual freedom and core values</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/06-6/12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 2</td>
<td>Ethical frameworks</td>
<td>Core value essay (due 6/19)</td>
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<tr>
<td>6/13-6/19</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 3</td>
<td>Challenges to library materials</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/20-6/26</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 4</td>
<td>Sharing our core values</td>
<td>Response to challenge (due 7/02)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6/27-7/02</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 5</td>
<td>Internet filtering</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7/05-7/10</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 6</td>
<td>Privacy</td>
<td>Sharing core values (due 7/17)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/11-7/17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Module 7</td>
<td>Copyright and open access</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/18-7/24</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Module 8</td>
<td>Net neutrality</td>
<td>Group presentation (due 7/31)</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/25-7/31</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Course Schedule

Part One: Basics of Intellectual Freedom and Core Values

Module 1: Intellectual freedom and core values

Module 2: Ethical frameworks
Note: Core value essay due

Part Two: Communicating Intellectual Freedom

Module 3: Challenges to library materials

Module 4: Sharing our core values
Note: Response to challenge due

Part Three: Our Values in the Broader World

Module 5: Internet filtering
Module 6: Privacy
Note: Sharing core values due


Module 7: Copyright and open access

- Creative commons website: [https://www.creativecommons.org](https://www.creativecommons.org). Read the following sections:
  - Use & remix (and links under “in this section” on the right).
  - What we do (and links under “in this section” on the right).

Module 8: Net neutrality
Note: Group presentation due

- Electronic Frontier Foundation. (2019). Net neutrality. Available at: [https://www.eff.org/issues/net-neutrality](https://www.eff.org/issues/net-neutrality). (Read some of the links as well.)