About the Course

Writing the Proposal:
- Submitted early in the previous spring semester.
- Included course description, along with how the course would meet First-Year Seminar goals.
- Asked to write a narrative on how my "day job" would be covered, which had to be approved by the VPA.

First-Year Seminars (FYS):
- Accredited in a small group exploration of ideas, careful reading of texts, & critical thinking are emphasized.
- Librarian also serves as academic advisor to the students until they declare majors. 
- Each FYS is treated as a cohort of students & goes through orientation activities together. Also meet outside of class with a student mentor to participate in programs and discussions about college life and campus issues.

What We Did in the Class:

Assignments:
- Book challenges
- Role of librarian/school boards
- Guest speaker: public library director
- Redbook censorship
- Reasons for censorship
- Most popular discussion - gay-themed children's literature
- Censorship of other forms of media

Book discussions:
- Follow by Allen Ginsberg
- Allusions are veiled with the message "They were outraged over "government" censorship of literature.
- Tropic of Cancer by Henry Miller
- A single student read the book. The one student was very uncomfortable with the graphic sexual content.
- Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
- Most had read this already at least once.
- Compared early and modern censorship
- The Diablos Eye by Toni Morrison
- Students generally liked this book.

Rewards:
- Strengthened my library instruction
- Faculty member
- Expanded my teaching approach
- Research paper on censorship topic of choice

Censorship Topics:
- Obsonity trials
- Book challenges
- Role of librarian/school boards
- Guest speaker: public library director
- Redbook censorship
- Reasons for censorship
- Most popular discussion - gay-themed children's literature
- Censorship of other forms of media

Challenges:
- Teaching literature
- Discussions of literature very different from discussions I'm used to leading - more subjective & "fuzzy."
- Teaching writing:
- The writing process is an incredibly important part of student's growth. I haven't had much formal training in teaching of writing.
- Academic advising:
- First-year student crises (both personal & academic) can be overwhelming.
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- Time constraints
- Many librarians find their instruction and reference consultations to be rewarding, but want the chance to interact in a more meaningful way with students, and bridge larger social relationships.

About the Students:
- Fall: 12 students enrolled (standard size for seminar)
- Spring: 1 student enrolled (standard size for seminar)
- Fall requests: Was 1st choice for all but 2 students and was one of the most requested seminar topics.
- Majors/Interests:
- Majority of students were interested in science majors.
- Second largest group interested in social sciences.
- Book was considered an English major.

Cultural Issues:
- Not all international students enrolled (at a school with a large international first-year class).
- Did have students with cultural/religious/moral issues with some of the works we discussed.
- Student monitor worked with student on approaching me with concerns.

About the Poster:

This poster session will look at the process that a librarian went through in creating a course proposal and subsequently teaching the course. This poster will detail the author's experiences teaching a discussion and literature-based class with somewhat controversial topics, advising first-year students, and forging longer-term relationships.

About the Poster:

This course was a First-Year Seminar (FYS), which meant additional responsibilities. First-Year Seminar faculty serve as their students academic advisor until they declare majors, thus providing additional insight into student work patterns, their academic advisor, and the university's curriculum.

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Getting Out of the Comfort Zone: Teaching a Class on Banned Books

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39x2188: This poster session will look at the process that a librarian went through in creating a course proposal and subsequently teaching the class on Banned Books, a subject that was close enough to familiar library jobs, but very different from traditional library instruction.

39x2296: The course was a First-Year Seminar (FYS), which meant additional responsibilities. First-Year Seminar faculty serve as their students academic advisor until they declare majors, thus providing additional insight into student work patterns, their academic advisor, and the university's curriculum.

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