|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Week Eight** | **Social Issues & Alternative Sources** |
| Goal(s) | Consider the information age issues that may affect your research and begin putting together the elements of your Pathfinder. |
| Overview | This week we will explore, through an all-class discussion, important issues regarding information access and use in our society and the world. What does it mean to have access, partial access, or no access to information? Who are the "information haves” and the “information have-nots?” Why is it important to search out alternative voices? How might censorship affect scholarship?  Also this week, as you wrap up your research, you will reflect on the results of your research to determine what important information might be missing and determine which of your sources are most important to your research question. You will also begin the process of reflecting on how this course has helped you learn to navigate the resources available to you and to manage the useful information that you find. |
| Objectives | * Discuss the issues of access to information and censorship and how they affect you, not only as a researcher, but also as a member of society * Review and evaluate the best sources you have discovered on your topic * Discover alternative resources you might not have considered * Organize and report the results of your research |
| Other Comments | Be sure to print the content of the weekly folder so you'll have a checklist for the week's assignment. |
| Course Outcomes Addressed | * Develop and research a topic of global significance * Recognize authors’ arguments and the political, social and economic motivations behind their work * Reflect upon how important information-related issues impact your daily life * Demonstrate the ability to locate, interpret and cite the relevant and appropriate information resources on a topic * Apply the information research process to your research topic |

**Week 8 Assignments**

* Class Discussion on an information issue: the information "haves" and "have-nots." Write a peer review of two other students’ essays. Respond to comments on your own essay.
* Alternative Sources: Learn about strategies for finding alternative sources of information on your topic. Locate information related to your topic that reflects an alternative point of view or a fresh perspective as compared to the sources you have used so far, such as: small press, blogs, zines, Alt-Press Watch, alternative media producers, etc.
* Source Selection Draft: Review, evaluate and select the best sources that contribute to an understanding of your topic.
* Your Research Process Draft: Organize and report on the results of your research process.
* Weekly Reflection: Reflect on the course content. Reflect on the application of the course content to your life.