The Power of Stories:
Using Fiction & Nonfiction to Develop Information Literacy Skills

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Information Literacy in the Drake Curriculum

- First Year Seminar (FYS)
- Area of Inquiry (AOI)
Presentation Overview

- Carrie: FYS featuring fictional depictions of real women
- Dan: Using science fiction in AOI and (future) FYS
- Sam: Using Narrative nonfiction in AOI course
Selecting Books and Films

Euphoria
LILY KING

A celebration of beauty, boldness, the flowering of family, and the triumph of liberty against the odds that freedom and justice always face—this exquisitely written novel illuminates our history and Bart's indomitable penchant for rising up the reader.”—AMY BLOOM

Jam on the Vine
LaShonda Katrice Barnett

The Girl King

Monster
A Typical Week

- Mondays: film & journal
- Wednesdays: Read about 50 pages & journal
The Major Assignments

- **Almost Famous Women**
  - Pick one story
  - Annotated bibliography
  - Re-read story
  - Essay
  - Authority & Research as Inquiry
- **Euphoria**
- **Two film essays**
  - Strategic exploration
- **Final essay**
Lessons Learned

● Challenges of novels

● Challenges of films

● Self-assessment of class discussions
Changes for Fall 2017

- Books
- Film Research
- Final Project
  - Creative
  - Novel
Origins: Science & SciFi

- Needs, Goals, & a Plan
  - Concepts
  - Analyzing Research
  - Historical Perspective
  - Scientific Communication
  - Science Fiction
  - Fears & Desires
First Case: Orwell's 1984

- SciFi Elements
- Telescreens
- Three C’s
  - Consider,
  - Connect,
  - Critique
Predictions

- Older Story Analysis
- Telescreens Today
- Deeper Research
  - Primary Articles
Development: Connecting to Info Lit

- LIBR 046 (IL AOI)
- *The Feeling of Power* by Isaac Asimov
- Backward Design
  - Cognitive Offloading
- Project
  - Read, List Concepts, Find Research, Analyze, Reflect
Development: Connecting to Info Lit

- *The Lady Astronaut of Mars* by Mary Robinette Kowal
- Backward Design
  - Space Travel & Extraterrestrial Habitation
- Difference?
  - Past v. Future
Student Research

- Concepts Researched
  - Loss of Creativity & Learning
  - Over-reliance on Tech
  - Robotics & Employment
  - Benefits of Tech in the Classroom
  - Physics & Engineering of Space Travel
  - Mental & Physical Health Issues
  - Exoplanet Science
Student Research

- Side Topics
  - Consequences & “Dark Side” of Scientific Progress
  - Human Priorities & Ethics
Framework & Assessment

- Research as Inquiry
  - Drawing Conclusions from the Stories & Articles
  - Formulating Questions Based on Gaps

- Authority is Constructed and Contextual
  - Authoritative Content Can Be Formal, Informal, & Include a Variety of Media
Future Development

- First-Year Seminar (FYS) Science Fiction, Science Fact
  - Novels, Films, Short Stories
- Challenges!
- New Projects
  - Writing SciFi Using Scientific Research
  - Investigations of Pseudoscience
  - Developing Stronger Science Communication
Online Dating and Research
LIBR 046

- Meets info lit requirement
- 2-credit, once a week
- No required sequencing
- Variety of majors
Modern Romance: An Investigation

- Published in 2015
- Comedian Aziz Ansari and Sociologist Eric Klinenberg
- Investigation of how dating has changed
Chapter 3: Online Dating

- History of online dating
- Challenges of online dating
- Profiles and profile pictures
- Algorithms
Activity objectives

- Describe purpose of search environments
- Compare behaviors in dating sites to research
- Apply skills to databases
Activity

- Concepts from chapter
- Brainstormed dating sites
- Compared dating sites and behaviors to each other
- Explored databases
- Looked at an example record
ACRL FRAMEWORK

- Searching as strategic exploration
  - Matching information needs to appropriate tools
- Focus on critical reflection
Moving forward

- Expanded into a 3-credit class
- Twice as many meetings

Challenges to be addressed

- Pacing
- Class discussions
Questions?
Contact Us!

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