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## ENG 4903-001: Young Adult Literature

Niall Nance-Carrol

*Eastern Illinois University*

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ENG 4903

# Young Adult Literature

**Instructor:** Dr. Niall Coleman Nance-Carroll

**Email:** ncnancecarroll@eiu.edu

**Office:** Coleman Hall 3060

**Office Hours:**

12:00-12:30 on Mondays

2:15—3:00 on Mondays and Wednesdays

12:00-2:00 on Friday

## Course Objectives:

1. Experience a wide range of literature produced for, or handed down to, young adults.
2. Understand some of the social, cultural and technological forces that shape the production of young adult literature.
3. Develop evaluative skills for assessing the quality of young adult literature.
4. By the end of this course, you should have a working knowledge of the resources available to the scholars and professionals who work with young adult literature.

## Catalog Course Description:

(3-0-3) S. Study of literature written for and about adolescents with emphasis on various genres, movements, themes, and major writers. (Group 5 for English; Group 1 for English Lang Arts) WI

## Required Textbooks

- Boulley *The Firekeeper's Daughter*
- Dimaline *The Marrow Thieves*
- Hinton *The Outsiders*
- Lee *Not Your Sidekick*
- Nix *Lirael*
- Reynolds *Long Way Down: The Graphic Novel*
- Sáenz *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*

- Sánchez *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*
- Takei *They Called Us Enemy*
- Thomas *Cemetery Boys*

## Assignments

In-Class Work	300	
Music Analysis	50	
Proposal	50	
Bibliography	50	
Short Paper #1	100	
Short Paper #2	100	
Short Paper #3	100	
Final Paper	250	
	1000	Total

## In-Class Work

We will complete a variety of in-class assignments, such as writing, graded discussions, and debates. Some of these will involve group work and some will be completed individually.

## Music Analysis

This is a short writing assignment, in which you analyze a song or music video about being a young adult. Unlike the formal papers, this is not expected to involve any secondary sources.

## Proposal

You will draft a formal proposal for your final paper, this will explain what young adult texts you will be looking at and define the aims of your research. This will also explain what kinds of sources you anticipate using. Proposals for undergraduate papers will typically involve a clear application of theoretical models. Proposals for graduate papers will typically involve a critique or an expansion of theoretical models.

## Bibliography

You will provide a bibliography in advance of your final paper. While you are free to continue your research and find additional sources, this should contain

most of the sources that you will be using on your final paper. Typically, bibliographies should contain at least 8 scholarly sources for undergraduate students and 12 scholarly sources for graduate students. Unusual projects may require differing numbers or types of sources.

## **Short Papers**

You will receive specific prompts for each paper. These will ask you to draw on what you learned in class and to consult secondary sources to support your evaluation or your argument about a text.

## **Final Paper**

You will develop a sustained argument about a young adult literature. This should be a theoretically grounded argument that draws on multiple scholarly sources and displays an understanding of the norms of academic argument. While you may draw on your short papers or your discussions, it must also include substantial additional research. Undergraduate papers must be at least 10 pages long. Graduate papers must be at least 15 pages long.

# **University Policies and Resources**

## **Academic Integrity**

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

## **Students with Disabilities**

If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by McAfee Gym, Room 1210, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

## **The Student Success Center**

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center ([www.eiu.edu/~success](http://www.eiu.edu/~success)) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to McAfee Gym, Room 1301.

## Statement for Teacher Certification

Students seeking Teacher Certification in English Language Arts should request each of their English Department professors to complete the "Application for English Department Approval to Student Teach" before the end of the semester. These forms are available in a rack outside the office of Dr. Melissa Ames (CH 3821) and online here: <https://www.eiu.edu/english/machform/view.php?id=19831>.

## Student Well-Being

EIU is committed to supporting and advancing the mental health and well-being of our students. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal mental health and well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, anxiety, depression, alcohol or other drugs, identities, and finances.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help is a courageous thing to do for yourself and those who care about you. Below is a list of available campus resources to assist with student well-being:

- [EIU Counseling Clinic](#): Human Services Building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor; 217-581-3413; for after-hours urgent support, call 1-866-567-2400. The Counseling Clinic offers individual and group counseling, emergency services, and resources.
- [Online Mental Health Screening](#): online, private screening tool for depression, anxiety, eating disorders, and alcohol and substance misuse.
- [EIU Health Clinic](#): Human Services Building, 1<sup>st</sup> floor; 217-581-3013. The Health Clinic services include lab work, pharmacy, and women's health and men's health programs.
- [Health Education Resource Center](#) (HERC): 2201 Blair Hall; 217-581-7786. The HERC offers health programming in the areas of alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention and education, flu and cold prevention and education, nutritional analysis and education, and sexual health education, in addition to other health-related topics.

- [Center for Gender and Sexual Diversity](#) (GSD): Stevenson Hall, lower level; 217-581-7117. The GSD Center provides services such as the Trans\*formation Station, a large library full of books and movies, year-round programming, and a comprehensive Safe Zone Training program.
- [EIU Campus Food Pantry](#): 1347 McAfee. The EIU Campus Food Pantry is a means to support students and the campus community by alleviating barriers to consistent, adequate, and healthful food. Anyone with a Panther Card can visit the pantry two times per month.
- [Student Legal Service](#): MLK Jr University Union Room 2420; 217-581-6054. Student Legal Service can assist with off-campus housing issues, traffic violations, misdemeanor criminal offenses, municipal ordinance violations, and expungement.
- [Financial Aid and Scholarships](#): Student Services Building East Wing; 217-581-6405, Fax: 217-581-6422, [finaid@eiu.edu](mailto:finaid@eiu.edu). The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships provides information and guidance to secure the necessary financial resources to meet educational goals and financial obligations to the university.

## Course Schedule

### Important Note for the Schedule

This schedule includes all major assignments and all of required main text readings. We will also have selected critical readings linked on D2L. These are not posted yet because the selections will vary depending on the discussions and the interests of the class.

This schedule will be updated with those readings throughout the semester. Typically, this additional reading will be one critical article per week when a main text is assigned or two on weeks when no main text has been assigned (such as Week 5).

### Week 1

Monday August 22

Wednesday August 24

### Week 2

Monday August 29

- Library Visit 1

Wednesday August 31

- Read *The Outsiders*

### Week 3

Monday September 5 **LABOR DAY**

Wednesday September 7

- Music Analysis Due

### Week 4

Monday September 12

- Read *The Marrow Thieves*

Wednesday September 14

### Week 5

Monday September 19

Wednesday September 21

- Short Paper #1 Due

### Week 6

Monday September 26

- Read *Not Your Sidekick*

Wednesday September 28

### Week 7

Monday October 3

- Read *Long Way Down*

Wednesday October 5

### Week 8

Monday October 10

- Read *Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*

Wednesday October 12

## Week 9

Monday October 17

- Read *Lirael*

Wednesday October 19

- Proposal Due

## Week 10

Monday October 24

- Library Visit 2

Wednesday October 26

- Short Paper #2 Due

## Week 11

Monday October 31

- Read *They Called Us Enemy*

Wednesday November 2

- Bibliography Due

## Week 12

Monday November 7

- Read *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*

Wednesday November 9

## Week 13

Monday November 14

- Read *Cemetery Boys*



Wednesday November 16

- Short Paper #3 Due

## Week 14

### **THANKSGIVING BREAK**

## Week 15

Monday November 28

- Read *Fire Keeper's Daughter*

Wednesday November 30

## Week 16

Monday December 5

Wednesday December 7

## Finals Week

**Tuesday Dec 13 12:30 to 2:30 PM Final Paper Due**