Spring 1-15-2011

ENG 2009G-002: Literature and Human Values: Race, Age, Gender

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English 2009 Literature and Human Values/Race, Age, Gender

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Office hours: 8:30-9:30, 12:15-2:00, and by appointment

Books for the course:

Dorothy Allison, Bastard out of Carolina

James Baldwin, Go Tell It on the Mountain

Richard Grant, American Nomads

Jack Kerouac, On the Road

Barbara Kingsolver, The Bean Trees

Toni Morrison, Beloved

Haruki Murakami, Norwegian Wood

J.D. Salinger, Franny and Zooey

In this class, we'll be talking among other things about the complexities of race, age, and gender. What is it like to be young, to be old, to be female or male, to be from here or there, of this or that ethnicity? Do we live in one world or do we live in many worlds? What do writers have to tell us about these things? Why should we listen to them?

Rules and regulations:

1. This is a discussion based class, so participation and attendance count. Your final grade will be based 50% on the degree of your involvement in the class, including attendance, participation, meeting deadlines, and so forth. This is a reading intensive class, and I expect people to do the work, show up with some ideas or opinions ready to go, and to share their experience with the rest of the room.

2. There will be some in class writing along the way, but the bulk of your written work will occur at the close of the semester in a big take home final, which will count for 50% of the grade.

3. I really hate cell phones, texting, and laptops in the classroom, and you know why. I don’t want to have to yell or be obnoxious, so don’t do this stuff. I also don’t like people getting up and leaving in the middle of class unless they’re really sick or something. It’s disruptive and usually unnecessary.