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ENG 4903-002: Young Adult Literature

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I. Course Description

This course explores issues facing the characters in multicultural young adult literature and includes multiple opportunities to self-select.

Texts: Curtis, C. P. *The Watsons Go to Birmingham*
      Martinez, V. *Parrot in the Oven*
      Nye, N. S. *Habibi*
      Hesse, K. *Out of the Dust*
      Holliday, L. *Why Do They Hate Me?*
      Paulsen, G. *Soldier's Heart*
      Namioka, L. *Ties That Bind, Ties That Break*
      Barrett, T. *Anna of Byzantium*
      Gardner, Annie *On My Mind*
      Hasham, Manuel *and the Madman*
      Myers, W. D. *Monster*
      Woodson, J. *From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun.*
      Hobbs, W. *The Maze*
      Anderson, L. H. *Speak*

Requirements: You must complete all parts of all assignments to receive credit for the class. Attendance is mandatory. Absences result in -10 points. Perfect attendance results in a bonus of 10 points.

Students with Disabilities: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services @ 581.6583.

II. Course Objectives

Upon successful completion of this course you will
• Have an enhanced awareness of a variety of human values from the perspective of young adults
• Have explored life experiences of a variety of cultures from the perspective of young adults
• Have studied several award-winning young adult works
III. Course Requirements

A. Response

Response Journal—Respond to assigned and to self-selected readings in your response journal. Note discussion topic for next class and center your journaling on that focus. Do not read more than 20 pages before responding. **Cite the pages to which you refer.** Each week submit your responses through email or in hard copy.

Response to peers’ essays—When drafts are completed respond class time will be devoted to responding (i.e. early stages response to content; final draft work on editing as well as response).

B. Projects

Independent Project—Select texts from the reading list or from the texts you have not chosen from your group projects. Respond in your journal **as you read.** Do not read further than 20 pages without stopping to respond. Write an essay supporting an argument grounded in your text. Use correct MLA or APA form.

Group Projects—Select and sign up to read one of the assigned texts. Respond in your journal **as you read.** Meet with your group to discuss the reading. Organize presentations of the text for your classmates.

IV. Evaluation

Course grade will be determined by the following:
- Response journal: 200 points
- Response to peers’ essays: 50 points
- Independent project/Essays: 100 points
- Group projects (50 points each): 100 points
- Final paper: 100 points
- Absence: -10 points
- Perfect attendance: +10 points
- Total: 550 points

Schedule of Expectations

1/14 Introductions. Discuss course expectations.
Assigned portions of *Why Do They Hate Me?*
Choose one of the following texts for your group project: *The Watsons Go to Birmingham, Parrot in the Oven, The Maze, Ties That Bind, Ties That Break, Speak, Annie on My Mind.*

1/16 *Why Do They Hate Me?* Popcorn.

1/21 Lit. Circles discuss first 1/3 of selected text. Journal due. Bleich’s most important passage, sentence, word.
1/23  *Why Do They Hate Me?*  Choral Reading, Readers Theater, Mime, Creative Dramatics


1/30  Lit. Circles discuss final 1/3 of selected text. Prepare class presentation.

2/4  Presentations of texts  
Select text for Independent Project.

2/6  Literature Circles on 1st 1/3 of text for Independent Project. Focus on character development.

2/11  New Circles on 2nd 1/3. Focus on conflicts (i.e. man vs. self, nature, man, fate, society).

2/13  New Circles on final 1/3. Focus on critical analysis.

2/18  Independent project due. Respond in small groups. Praise Question Polish (PQP).

2/20  Book tasting  
Pairing selection

2/25  Three pairs together form Lit. Circle. Focus on connections between paired texts in 1st 1/3 of the text.  
Revised Independent project due. Hand in rough draft also.

2/27  Same Lit. Circles focus on 2nd 1/3 concerning cultural differences and breaking/honoring traditions.

3/4  Same Lit. Circles focus on final 1/3 concerning connections among all the books in the group.

3/6  Choral Reading, Readers Theater, Mime, Creative Dramatics

3/10-14  Spring Break

3/18  YA Poetry  
Choose second text for group project: *Habibi, Soldier's Heart, Out of the Dust, Monster, Anna of Byzantium, Manual and the Madman*.

3/20  Lit. Circles on 1st 1/3 of the text. Focus on the role of language.

3/25  Lit. Circles on 2nd 1/3 of the text. Focus on social issues.

4/1  Presentation of texts.

4/3  YA Poetry
Self-select text for Independent Project (Due 4/17)

4/8  Literature Circles on 1st 1/3 of the text. Focus on prediction/foreshadowing.

4/10 Literature Circles on 2nd 1/3 of the text. Focus on rite of passage.

4/15 Literature Circles on final 1/3 of the text. Draw connections among texts.

4/17 Literary paper for Independent Project due. PQP.

4/22 YA Short Stories
Revised Independent Project due

4/24 YA Short Stories
Choral Reading, Readers Theater, Mime, Creative Dramatics

4/29 First 1/2 of From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun (Compare/Contrast with previously read texts)

5/1  Final 1/2 of From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun