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ENG 4903-002: Young adult literature

Carol Stevens

Eastern Illinois University

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English 4903.002 Section 002
Young Adult Literature
Spring 2008
Prof. Carol Stevens

Contact Information:
Office Coleman Hall 3861
Hours 2:00-3:00 T and Th, 1:30-4:30 Wed.,
and by appointment except as otherwise announced
Phone, Voicemail 581-6970
Mailbox Coleman Hall 3155
E-mail cdstevens@eiu.edu

Textbooks:
Cofer, *An Island Like You*
Cormier, *The Chocolate Wars*
Farmer, *A Girl Named Disaster*
Frey and Rollins, *Classics of Young Adult Literature*
Hesse, *Out of the Dust*
Leitch, *Catch*
Myers, *Monster*
Nye, *Habibi*
Paulsen, *Soldier’s Heart*
Pullman, *The Golden Compass*
Spiegelman, *Maus: A Survivor’s Tale*

Course Description: This course emphasizes the study of literature, mostly but not entirely fiction (both realistic and fantastic) written specifically for young people aged approximately 12-18. We will consider literary aspects of the novels and other works which we will read together, as well as your own independent reading chosen from an extensive list of selections. We will read writing about literature for young adults as well as the literature itself. We will consider censorship issues, the movement toward more adult topics and perspectives, social attitudes toward teenagers, and many other issues of concern. Expect much lively discussion among people who may or may not agree with you, and much formal and informal writing, including exams, two papers, and journal responses or quizzes.

**Grading:** Unless otherwise specified, your grading will be based upon 100 points as follows—
Mid-term Exam 15 points
Final Exam 20 points
Two papers, one 20 points and one 25, topics TBA
Written responses and quizzes 10 points
Participation and group work 10 points
Grades will use numbers instead of letters, and will not be curved. These will convert into your final grade as follows: 91-100=A, 80-90=B, 70-79=C, 65-70=D, below 65=F.

Responsibilities and Policies:
1. Come to every class meeting, and keep the lines of communication open. Late work gets lowered grades unless we’ve come to a clear understanding before the due date.
2. No notebook computers, cell phones, mp3 players etc. on or out in the classroom. At all, ever, except as prescribed by the Office of Disability Services. They are a distraction and impede learning for everyone, not just the person using them.
3. More than one absence will result in a deduction from your point total of 1 point for every class missed. More than three, and you will not pass the course. But there will be points added for students who contribute to discussion and write clear, articulate, and thoughtful responses to the reading.
4. Honor Policy: The ethics of academic honesty dictate that students do their own work—always. Taking someone else’s words or thoughts and using them in your own writing without giving credit is plagiarism as is cheating on exams etc. If I catch you doing any of it, you will fail the course and be reported to Judicial Affairs.
5. Paper Format: papers and class responses should be typed, double-spaced with one-inch margins and type no larger than 12-point, with your name, the class, the section number, and the date at the top. They should use MLA style for citations.

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Please Note: Any policy statement or syllabus is by its very nature a tentative document. Changes in any part, including grading, are possible during the semester, and an announcement in class will be considered sufficient notice of such change.

Important Dates:

Midterm Exam Feb. 6
Final Exam Wednesday April 30 5:15-7:15 p.m.
Final Draft of Paper 1 Feb. 20
Final Draft of Paper 2 April 10
Readings and responses are DUE on the dates listed. Please note changes in dates for some written assignments from Course Policy Statement.

Jan. 9 Introduction to course, policies, readings, responses. In-class writing on Young Adult Literature.

Jan. 16 In Classics, Horatio Alger, *Ragged Dick*.

Jan. 23 " Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

Jan. 30 " Hinton, *The Outsiders*

Feb. 6 " Cormier, *The Chocolate War*

Feb. 13 " Blume, *Forever*

Feb. 20 " Martinez, *Parrot in the Oven: Mi Vida*. 1st Paper Due

Feb. 27 Cofer, *An Island Like You*

Mar. 5 Mid-term Exam, full period

Mar. 12 Spring Break

Mar. 19 Farmer, *A Girl Named Disaster*

Mar. 26 Paulson, *Soldier’s Heart*; Spiegelman, *Maus: A Survivor’s Tale*

Apr. 2 Hesse, *Out of the Dust*

Apr. 9 Leitch, *Catch*. 2nd paper due

Apr. 16 Nye, *Habibi*

Apr. 23 Pullman, *The Golden Compass*; Issues in Young Adult Lit; Review for and discuss final.

Wed. Apr. 30 Final Exam 5:15 to 7:15 p.m.; regular classroom