ENG 4903-002: Young Adult Literature

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Eastern Illinois University

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ENG 4903: Young Adult Literature (The Literature of Adolescence)

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Office Hours: MWF 11:00 a.m.-11:50 a.m.
M 1:00 p.m.-1:50 p.m.

Course Description: This course emphasizes the study of various genres of young adult literature and analysis of elements such as audience, context, and themes. Class participants will have the opportunity to discover and examine key characteristics of young adult literature past and present through course reading and writing assignments, group work, and class discussions.

Required Texts and Materials:

Bauer, Joan. Rules of the Road.
Donelson, Kenneth L. and Alleen Pace Nilsen. Literature for Today's Young Adults.
LeGuin, Ursula K. A Wizard of Earthsea.
Levine, Gail Carson. Ella Enchanted.
Mazer, Harry. Twelve Shots.
Myers, Walter Dean. Monster.
Oates, Joyce Carl. Big Mouth & Ugly Girl
Pullman, Philip. The Golden Compass.

Course Requirements:
Reading: We will discuss reading assignments on the day they are listed on the course calendar (additional assignments may be added throughout the semester). Set aside enough time to read, analyze, think about, and re-read if necessary each assignment. Look up unfamiliar words before coming to class. Prepare yourself to contribute to class and group discussions.

Writing: Students must complete all major writing assignments (listed below under “Course Grade”) to be eligible to pass this course. Frequent in-class and out-of-class writing activities will also be assigned as part of our daily work. In-class writing must be completed during the allotted time in class, so promptness and consistent attendance are crucial.

Daily Work & Participation: In addition to in-class writing activities, there will be a substantial amount of daily work (such as peer response, homework and response papers, and group work) during the semester. Group activities, including peer response, and in-class writing can only be completed during the allotted time in class, so they may not be made up at a later date (even for an excused absence). Homework is due at the beginning of class.

Class participation also factors into the overall daily work grade. Each week, I assign a participation grade worth a maximum of five points. Lack of participation in class or group activities and discussions, failure to bring appropriate materials (such as texts) to class, and/or chronic tardiness will result in the loss of some or all of those weekly participation points. It is the student's responsibility to make sure that all work is turned in promptly.

Group Presentation: Students will present a group oral presentation accompanied by appropriate visual support. Class members must present on the date when their group is scheduled to present to receive credit for the assignment.
Attendance: Because this course emphasizes discussion and collaboration, attendance is vital. Class exercises and peer review activities (generally worth 10-20 points each) cannot be made up at a later date. After six absences, each additional absence will also result in a penalty of one full letter grade subtracted from your final course grade. For an absence to be excused, bring proper verification (written documentation approved by me) for illness, emergency, or university-sanctioned activities. Perfect attendance merits the addition of 20 extra-credit points to the daily work point total.

Course Grade: Penalties for excessive absences will be deducted as described in the “Attendance” section. Otherwise, your final course grade will be determined by the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Weight</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daily Work&amp; Participation/Responses</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper #1</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper #2</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A= 90% to 100%
B= 80% to 89%
C= 70% to 79%
D= 60% to 69%
F= 0% to 59%

Additional information and requirements for the major papers, group presentation, and final exam will be provided prior to the relevant due dates listed on the course schedule.

Late Work: Work turned in after its due date will be penalized by 10% of the maximum possible points for each day that it is late (excluding weekends). Printed copies only will be accepted (not e-mail attachments). Assignments turned in after the beginning of class may also be penalized by up to 10% of the maximum possible points.

Plagiarism: In accordance with English Department and University policies, “Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism—‘The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation as one’s original work’ (Random House Dictionary of the English Language)—has the right and responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty up to and including immediate assignment of the grade of F for the assigned essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office.”

The best argument against plagiarism is that you cheat yourself out of the education you are here to obtain when you copy someone else’s work. If you believe that a specific instance in your writing might constitute plagiarism, please consult me prior to turning in the final draft.

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.
English 4903 Course Schedule (Spring 2005)

This schedule is subject to additions and changes at my discretion. Assignments are due on the date that they appear on the schedule. Response papers should address assigned readings unless otherwise indicated.

1-10 Course Introduction
1-12 Nilsen & Donelson 3-32; Mazer 1-24
1-14 Nilsen & Donelson 33-40; Mazer 25-71

1-19 Mazer 72-160
1-21 Mazer 161-228; Response paper due

1-24 Nilsen & Donelson Chapter 2; from *Ragged Dick* (library e-reserve)
1-26 from *Black Boy* and other selections TBA (library e-reserve)
1-28 Nilsen & Donelson Chapter Three; other selections TBA (library e-reserve)

1-31 Myers 1-151
2-2 Myers 152-281; Response paper due
2-4 Nilsen & Donelson Chapter 4; Myers discussion continued

2-7 Oates 1-129
2-9 Oates 130-266; Response paper due
2-11 Nilsen & Donelson Chapter Five; Oates discussion continued

2-14 Nilsen & Donelson Chapter Six
2-16 Paper #1 draft due for peer response

2-21 Bauer 1-103
2-23 Bauer 104-203
2-25 Paper #1 due; Bauer discussion continued

2-28 Nilsen & Donelson Chapter Seven; other selections TBA (library e-reserve)
3-2 LeGuin 1-93
3-4 LeGuin 94-183; Response paper due

3-7 Levine 1-73
3-9 Levine 74-156
3-11 Levine 157-232; Response paper due

3-21 Nilsen & Donelson Chapter Eight; other selections TBA (library e-reserve)
3-23 selections TBA (library e-reserve)
3-25 Paper #2 draft due for peer response

3-28 Nilsen & Donelson Chapter Nine; other selections TBA (library e-reserve)
3-30 selections TBA (library e-reserve)
4-1 Paper #2 due
English 4903 Schedule Continued

4-4  Nilsen & Donelson Chapter Ten
4-6  Work on group presentations
4-8  Nilsen & Donelson Chapter Eleven
4-11 Work on group presentations
4-13 Nilsen & Donelson Chapter Twelve
4-15 Work on group presentations
4-18 Group Presentations
4-20 Group Presentations
4-22 Group Presentations
4-25 Draft of Final Paper due for peer response
4-27 Draft of Final Paper due for peer response
4-29 Final Paper due