

LIT 4333 (Sec. 04HB)
T 4/Thurs 4/5 Fall 2014

Instructor: John Cech (✓)
1105 Turlington Hall

Literature for Adolescents

This course is designed to provide you with a survey of some major figures, historical trends, and critical approaches to that vibrant, edgy, immensely popular field of literature that occupies the shifting, transitional ground between works for children and adults. We will look at a broad range of genres and styles intended for or chosen by the adolescent reader, beginning with some canonical "classics" from the mid-twentieth century, and ending with some innovative novels from our own literary present. Taken together, these works will raise many of the questions (psychological, social, philosophical) in our discussions that are asked by adolescents themselves about their own challenging, demanding, and often defining experiences. A principle interest of the course will be to examine the ways in which successive generations have "constructed their ideas of the adolescent through a variety of cultural forms, among them: literature, film, television, music, and, most recently, the internet.

Course Readings

Alexie, Sherman. <i>The Absolutely True Diary ...</i>	Daly, Maureen. <i>Seventeenth Summer.</i>
Anderson, M.T. <i>Feed.</i>	Hinton, S.E. <i>The Outsiders.</i>
Angelou, Maya. <i>I know Why the Caged Bird Sings.</i>	Le Guin, Ursula. <i>A Wizard of Earthsea.</i>
Block, Francesca. <i>Weetzie Bat.</i>	Myers, Walter Dean. <i>Monster.</i>
Blume, Judy. <i>Forever.</i>	Salinger, J.D. <i>Catcher in the Rye.</i>
Childress, Alice. <i>A Hero Ain't Nothing But a Sandwich.</i>	Townsend, Sue. <i>The Secret Diary ...</i>
Cormier, Robert. <i>The Chocolate War.</i>	Wolff, Virginia. <i>Make Lemonade.</i>

Other readings may be added during the course, along with video and television viewings and films at local theaters. You'll be able to find copies of these books at the University Bookstore, other bookstores, or online at amazon.com or barnesandnoble.com.

Assignments and Expectations

Engaged, enthusiastic, courteous, punctual participation in the course (10 points).

You will lose a point for every absence more than three. Please let me know immediately if an illness or other emergency is keeping you from the class.

1 presentation for the class (5 points).

3 short creative and critical writing assignments (15 points)

Two reading quizzes (20 points)

A mid-term exam (20 points)

A final exam (30 points)

Writing assignments will be discussed the week before they are due. You are responsible for being present for these discussions. You will have a 24-hour grace period after each assignment is due; after that you will not receive credit for the assignment. Be sure that you have an active email address that you check regularly to receive any assignment updates and other information during the semester. A listserv will be set up for the course during the first week of classes.

Office Hours

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00 – 1:45 p.m. and by appointment
Office: 4364 Turlington Phone: (352) 294.2861
Email: jcech@ufl.edu

Schedule

- Aug. 26 Introductions.
28 Introductions, continued.
- Sept. 2 Myths, Archetypes, and Stereotypes. Some starting assumptions.
Cultural, Psychological Background.
4 Literary Roots and Branches. A visit to the Baldwin Library.
9 The Bildungsroman: *Seventeenth Summer* and the Domestic Romance.
11 The Domestic Romance and the Adolescent Writer.
16 Screenings: “Mental Health” and Educational Films for Teens.
18 Other Kinds of Romance: *Forever*. **Quiz #1.**
23 Still Another Kind of Romance: *Weetzie Bat*.
25 The Boy’s Book and the Old Realism: *Catcher in the Rye*.
30 The Bad/Good Boy, From Tom and Huck to Holden.
- Oct. 2 Writing What you Know: *The Outsiders*.
7 The New Realism: Rebels With and Without Causes.
9 “Do I Dare Disturb the Universe?” *The Chocolate War*.
14 **Mid-Term Exam.**
16 Movies, Media, and the Construction of Adolescence I. Viewings TBA.
21 More Movies and Media. Review.
23 Fantasy, Shadows, and *The Wizard of Earthsea*.
28 Other Wizards and Heroes : Harry, Percy, and Katniss.
30 Stereotypes, Choices: *A Hero Ain’t Nothing But a Sandwich*.
- Nov. 4 Life is a Like a Movie, Sometimes: *Monster*.
6 Movies, Media, and the Construction of Adolescence, II. **Quiz #2.**
11 **Veteran’s Day**
13 More Movies and Media. *My So-Called Life*, *American Teen* and *Glee*.
18 Autobiographical Voices: *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*.
20 The Examined Life: *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole*.
25 Bildung and Basketball: *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*.
27 **Thanksgiving**
- Dec. 2 Life is a Poem: *Make Lemonade*.

- 4 The Current Scene: Other Heroes, Other Problems, Other Forms: *Feed*.
9 **Final Exam**

Any additions to or changes in these assignments, as well as specific project, reading, viewing, and presentation assignments will be announced in class and posted on the class listserv. Be sure to check your email regularly for these messages. Please note: you should create a network of contacts with others in the class -- this is especially important for getting an assignment you may have missed, since I will not (except in cases of emergency) repeat the assignments via phone or email.

Grading Rubric

This is a 100-point course based on the total scores of your quizzes and exams. There will be a one-point deduction for each unexcused absence after the three allowed for the course. Each absence after three will be a one-point deduction.

A = 92 - 100	B+ = 88 - 89	C+ = 78 - 79	D + = 68 - 69	E = 59 and below
A- = 90 - 91	B = 82 - 87	C = 72 - 77	D = 62 - 67	
	B - = 80 - 81	C- = 70 - 71	D - = 60 - 61	

Final Grade appeals.

1000- and 2000- level courses: students may appeal a final grade by filling out a form available from Carla Blount, Program Assistant in the English Department

Composition and Humanities credit

This course can satisfy the UF General Education requirement for Composition or Humanities. For more information, see: ^[L]_[SEP]
<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/general-education-requirement.aspx>

Disability Services

The Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office provides information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

Statement on Harassment

UF provides an educational and working environment that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment for its students, staff, and faculty. For more about UF policies regarding harassment, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/sexual/>

Academic Honesty

All students must abide by the Student Honor Code. For more information about academic honesty, including definitions of plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

This is a General Education course providing student learning outcomes listed in the Undergraduate Catalog. For more information, see:

<http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/general-education-requirement.aspx#learning>."