

LIT 4333 (1B85)
Turlington 2353

Instructor: John Cech (√)
Wednesdays 4:05 – 7:05

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

1 presentation for the class	= 10 points.
4 short creative and/or critical writing assignments (10 points each)	= 40 points.
Two reading quizzes	= 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 UF email address that you check this account regularly to receive any assignment updates and other information during the semester. A listserv has been set up for the course for these announcements and assignments.

Office Hours

Mondays, 12:00 – 12:50

Office: 4364 Turlington

Email: jcech@ufl.edu

Wednesdays, 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. and by appointment.

Phone: (352) 294.2861

Schedule

- January 5 Introductions. Myths, Archetypes, and Stereotypes. Some starting assumptions. Some cultural, psychological background.
- 12 Literary Roots and Branches. Possible visit to the Baldwin Library. Be sure to be reading ahead.
- 19 The Bildungsroman: *Seventeenth Summer* and the Domestic Romance.
- 26 The Domestic Romance and the Adolescent Writer. Reports.
Other Kinds of Romance: *Forever*. Reports. **Project #1**.
- February 2 Still Another Kind of Romance: *Weetzie Bat*. **Quiz #1**.
- 9 The Boy's Book and the Old Realism: *Catcher in the Rye*. Reports.
- 16 Writing What you Know: *The Outsiders*. The New Realism: Rebels with and without causes. Reports. **Project #2**.
- 23 "Do I Dare Disturb the Universe?" *The Chocolate War*. Reports.
- March 2 Movies, Media, and the Construction of Adolescence. Reports.
- 9 **Spring Break**.
- 16 Fantasy, Shadows, and *The Wizard of Earthsea*. Other Wizards and Heroes: Harry, Peter, and Katniss. Reports. **Project #3**.
- 23 Stereotypes, Choices: *A Hero Ain't Nothing But a Sandwich*. Reports.
Life is a Like a Movie, Sometimes: *Monster*. **Quiz #2**.
- 30 Autobiographical Voices: *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. Reports.
Bildung and Basketball: *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*.
- April 5 Life as a Poem: *Make Lemonade*. **Project #4**. Reports.

- 13 New Directions, Emerging Genres, New Issues. Reports.
- 20 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 UF 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 Policy

All writings are due in class on the due date (see syllabus). You have a 24-hour grace period to turn in these individual assignments if you miss that deadline.

All your work should be typed, unless it is in visual or other form. You should come prepared to read your weekly writings in the class and to discuss the reading and viewing assignments.

If you do all the assignments, make a good, sincere effort on each of them, actively participate in the class discussions, and are willing to grow creatively through this experience, you should do well in the course.

Grading Scale	A = 94-100	A- = 90-93		
	B+ = 87-89	B = 84-86	B- = 80-83	
	C+ = 77-79	C = 74-76	C- = 70- 73	
	D+ = 67-69	D = 64-66	D- = 60-63	
	E = 0-59			

UF Grading Policies for Assigning Grade Points

<http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Final Grade Appeals: If you want to appeal the final grade you receive for this course, you should contact Professor Kenneth Kidd, Associate Chair and Undergraduate Coordinator of the English Department. You will submit your course materials for evaluation by a committee assembled by Professor Kidd. The committee may decide to raise, lower, or leave unchanged your final grade for the course. Its decision is final.

Attendance Policy.

You may miss one weekly meeting, no questions asked. If you miss more than one

weekly meeting, you will lose points for each additional, unexcused absence.

Please let me know immediately, via phone or email, if there is an emergency, illness, or other circumstances that are keeping you from being in class so that we can make any necessary adjustments.

Composition and Humanities credit

This course can satisfy the UF General Education requirement for Composition or Humanities. For more information, see:

<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>."

In the Classroom.

Classroom discussion should be civil and respectful to everyone and relevant to the day's topic. Some of the issues raised in the class may be controversial and have no easy solutions, and everyone is entitled to their opinion. While you may disagree with each other and (the instructor!), you should express your viewpoint in a polite and constructive manner. But any rude, coarse, or offensive remarks based upon race,

gender, ability, or sexual identity, in written assignments or in class discussion will not be tolerated and will result in dismissal from class.

In the interests of protecting the privacy and academic and individual freedoms of everyone in the course, ours will be a cell-phone and computer/pad-free seminar. Please bring pen and paper for your notes. It is important that you are fully present in the class, without the distractions of multi-tasking. We will take regular breaks during our 3-hour seminar so that you will be able to catch up on your text and phone messages.

As you may have heard, there is a new state law concerning recording classes. (See UF's guide to course syllabi, section C.4 at the following link: http://www.syllabus.ufl.edu/media/syllabusufledu/syllabi_policy_8_5_2021.pdf. The wording of this policy seems to apply to lecture courses, since any recording of class discussions would require the permission from other members of the class. These recordings are generally meant for personal use and cannot be "published" online or in other public forums.

If you have a disability that requires that you record the class, you should be in touch with the disabilities office, and they will provide you with a letter for me concerning the individual requirements you may need. Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the Disability Resource Center at: <https://disability.ufl.edu/get-started/>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Here is the latest advisory from the UF administration concerning Covid procedures and information:

All people inside of UF facilities are expected to wear masks in community spaces in buildings, including common areas in our office suites, when we are not in our individual offices or workspaces, even if you are vaccinated.

Instructors may ask their students to wear a mask, but they may not require nor ask a student to leave the classroom. Because it is a medical campus, UF Health does require masks while inside any area of its academic health center buildings across its Gainesville, Jacksonville, and Central Florida campuses and in its clinical facilities statewide. Appropriate mask use and voluntary vaccinations have allowed UF Health to create a safe workplace for over 10,000 faculty, staff, and trainees to work and learn in a high-risk COVID environment.

As in previous semesters, instructors may review through their course rosters on Canvas if a student has been withheld from campus by UF Health Screen, Test &

Protect due to COVID-19 exposure, symptoms, or a positive test result. If an employee is withheld from campus, his or her supervisor will be notified.

Students who must miss class due to quarantine will be treated as though they are absent from class because of any other illness. The instructor and student should think of it as such and arrange for the student to make up classwork.

As a reminder, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “vaccines in the U.S. UF will continue to promote vaccines and make them easily accessible for all members of the community. If you have not been vaccinated, we urge you to do so as soon as possible. A list of vaccination sites and their schedules is available at <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/vaccinations/vaccine-availability/>.

COVID-19 testing will also continue to be available, and a list of testing sites and schedules is available at <https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org/screen-test-protect-2/how/screen/#locations> and is strongly encouraged for anyone who is experiencing symptoms or is concerned about possible exposure.

Continue to regularly visit [coronavirus.UFHealth.org](https://coronavirus.ufhealth.org) and coronavirus.ufl.edu for up-to-date information about COVID-19 and vaccination.

Honesty and Definition of Plagiarism.

UF students are bound by The University of Florida Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: ‘On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.’” The Honor Code (<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/policies/student-honor-code-studentconduct-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Plagiarism can occur even without any malicious intent to deceive if you fail to understand and employ proper documentation techniques. When in doubt, ask for help!

Other Concerns

Wellness/Counseling: Students who are in distress or who are in need of counseling or urgent help: please contact umatter@ufl.edu or 352-392-1575 so that a team member can reach out to you. UF’s Counseling and Wellness Center offers additional support: 352-392-1575, or contact them online: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>

UF’s Policy on Sexual Harassment: The University of Florida is committed to providing a safe educational, working, and residential environment that is free from

sexual harassment or misconduct directed towards any and all members of the community: <https://titleix.ufl.edu/about/title-ix-rights/>.

Course Evaluations. Toward the end of the semester, you will receive email messages asking you to go online and evaluate this course:
<https://evaluations.ufl.edu/evals/Default.aspx>