Introduction to the Course

Description:

This course is a survey of young adult literature commonly read by people ages sixteen to twenty-five years old. The genres of Fantasy, Autobiography, Historical Fiction, Realistic Fiction, and Fan Fiction will be explored. In addition to genres, students will also become familiar with young adult literature authors, popular banned books, social movements, literature adapted for the movies.

Note: This course contains books with adult themes including sexual assault, murder, suicide, nudity, and other controversial topics.

Course Objectives:

1. Become familiar with the transition from late childhood to adulthood through various plots and genres including required reading or high school literature, fantasy, science fiction, autobiography, historical fiction, realistic fiction, and fan fiction.
2. This course will also look into various social phenomena and artistic movements outside of or in parallel with the literary field to understand the underlying world of storymaking including banned and censored books, book cover art, films utilizing young adult literature plots and subject matter from published materials, and attention paid to the lives and literary careers of significant young adult literature writers.
3. Evaluate reading materials for young adults in context to the maturing and evolving lives of the characters within the literature and the intended audiences of young adult literature within the age group of sixteen to twenty-five.
4. Evaluate and begin to understand how the characters and audience of young adult literature differ from their premodern counterparts, and the social and cultural crisis’ and life events that mean the most to this group of young adults or teenagers.
5. Distinguish between genres and recognize recurring themes within literature, especially between fantasy, historical fiction, and autobiography/inspired by true events novels and stories.

Required Books:

Students are required to read thirteen Young Adult titles for this course. (A copy of each title is available on reserve at PCL.) In addition, there are links to online articles and media.

The Perks of Being a Wallflower (1997) Stephen Chbosky
Looking for Alaska (2005) John Green
White Cat (2010) Holly Black
Some Assembly Required (2014) Arin Andrews
In Darkness (2013) Nick Lake
Gabi A Girl in Pieces (2014) Isabel Quintero
Mare's War (2009) Tanita S. Davis
Roadside Picnic (2012) Arkady and Boris Strugatsky
The Devil's Intern (2015) Donna Hosie

Student's Choice: Select One of Three

Maus (1986) Art Spiegelman
Monster (1999) Walter Dean Myers
The House on Mango Street (1984) Sandra Cisneros

Student's Choice: Select One of Three

Ender's Game (1991) Orson Scott Card
If I Stay (2009 book, 2014 movie) Gayle Forman

Assignments:

*Assignments turned in late will not be accepted.

Weekly Discussion:

Requirements: (per Week) 1 post 600 words minimum, 2 responses each 250 words minimum | Note: Week 2 has two discussions, each must have one post and two responses.

Posts submitted after the deadline will not receive credit.

Students must prove that they have done the readings by bringing in themes, quotes, details, etc. to support your argument, questions, or reflection.

**Discussions should be addressed weekly. Each week a new discussion will open and remain unlocked for 7 days, starting the Monday of its designated week and locked down on the following Sunday at 11:59 p.m.

Timed quizzes: (per Module) 21 detailed questions over readings and topics covered in each unit.

30 minute time limit on quizzes. When the quiz times out, all unanswered questions will be counted as incorrect, so students should pace themselves and submit the quiz before the quiz times out.

Final project: choose 1 from the 3 options below. The final project is due in two stages. The 1st draft is due February 26th. The final version is due April 25th.

Develop a 5 page lesson plan/proposal for a book you would like to teach in a Young Adult Lit class.
Your proposal must include a synopsis and address genre, characterization, plot, and theme within teacher presentation, class activities, discussion topics, and further reading materials.

Write a 5 page persuasive paper about a Young Adult book that has been banned. What was the circumstances of the banning? What issue(s) does it address? Argue for or against the banning and
back up your opinion with facts.
Create your own fan fiction from one of the books provided in the course. 1500-3000 words. Must include aspects of the genre as presented in the readings or the discussions. (Note: it is acceptable to place your fan fiction in a different genre.) I am looking for confirmation that you understand the genre, so once you have chosen one, stay within its bounds and don't be afraid to use tropes.

**Grading System:**

Discussion 40% 240 points possible (16 points total per week: 8 for post, 8 for both responses. Week 2 will also equal 16 points total with 4 points for each post and 2 points for each response.)

Quizzes 35% 210 points possible (21 points per quiz) Final Project 25% 150 points possible
Writing Rubric: applies to Discussions and Final Project

Grading Scale 600 points

A  570600
A  540569
B+ 523539
B  510522
B  480509
C+ 463479
C  450462
C  420449
D  360419
F  359 or below

**Academic Integrity:**

The University of Texas policies on academic integrity can be found at [http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php.](http://deanofstudents.utexas.edu/sjs/acint_student.php.) Academic integrity is expected and any non compliance is met with zero tolerance by this instructor.

**Students with Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 5124716259.
Evolution of YA Literature Readings and Media

The Evolution of Young Adult Literature

Required Materials

Readings: can be found online as indicated

*Young Adult Literature: from Romance to Realism* (2010) - Michael Cart (available online through the UT library)
  - Ch. 8, 9, 10, and 11 (p. 111-164)

Michael Cart for YALSA "The Value of Young Adult Literature" [http://www.ala.org/yalsa/guidelines/whitepapers/yalit](http://www.ala.org/yalsa/guidelines/whitepapers/yalit)

"Young Adult Literature: Rite of Passage or Rite of Its Own" (read only pages 62-68) [http://128.173.125.123/ejournals/ALAN/v32n3/v32n3.pdf#page=62](http://128.173.125.123/ejournals/ALAN/v32n3/v32n3.pdf#page=62)

Online Communities: viewpoints from around the web


Video: related visual content

"Why adults are buzzing about YA literature" [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQE-wMiO2Gw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQE-wMiO2Gw)
In the News: young adult literature in current events


Required Books Readings and Media

Required Materials*

Readings: Choose one of the following books

*Monster* (1999) - Walter Dean Myers
*Maus* (1986) - Art Spiegleman
*House on Mango Street* (1984) - Sandra Cisneros

Online Communities: viewpoints from around the web


Videos: related visual content

*Monster* Discussion:
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QtlkXnf3-vY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QtlkXnf3-vY)

*Maus* Discussion:
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBudVl0Rri0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UBudVl0Rri0)
House on Mango Street Discussion:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nXO8a6HYttw

In the News: young adult literature in current events:

"Teaching Huck Finn: A Letter to Friends' Central School" Teaching Huck Finn_ A Letter to Friends’ Central School.pdf

*There are two discussions that you are required to participate in this week. The first is general required reading and the second is specific to the book you chose to read.*
Banned Books Readings and Media

Banned Books

Required Materials

Readings:

*The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (1997) - Stephen Chbosky

*Looking for Alaska* (2005) - John Green

"Unsuitable' Books : Young Adult Fiction and Censorship" (2014) - Caren J. Town (available on Canvas)

- Chapters 1 and 2

Online Communities: viewpoints from around the web

10 Reasons for Banning Books, and 5 Much Better Reasons Not To


[http://www.unirel.vt.edu/audio_video/2012/10/sheergoodfortune.html](http://www.unirel.vt.edu/audio_video/2012/10/sheergoodfortune.html)
Video: related visual content

John Green's opinion of Looking for Alaska's potential ban:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fHMPtYvZ8tM

Books challenged or banned in 2012-2013:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hOcbT_kT-z4
Books challenged or banned in 2013-2014:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1wC7YqqFKBk
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1wC7YqqFKBk)

In the News: young adult literature in current events

"The Wilds of Education"


Best quotes on banning and censoring books
Fantasy Readings and Media

Fantasy Books - Required Reading

Required Materials

Readings:

*The Devil's Intern* (2014) - Donna Hosie (For Week 4 discussion)

*White Cat* (2010) - Holly Black (For Week 5 discussion)

*White Cat* ([http://www.surlalunefairytales.com/authors/aulnoy/1892/whitecat.html](http://www.surlalunefairytales.com/authors/aulnoy/1892/whitecat.html)) (1892) - Madame d'Aulnoy (the fairy tale that Holly Black's tale takes inspiration from.) (For Week 5 discussion)

Online Communities: viewpoints from around the web

Browse the Realms Young Adult Literary Magazine website: [http://www.realmslitmag.com/](http://www.realmslitmag.com/)


Video: related visual content

*Holly Black* interview - of faeries, vampires, & dolls:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FrTO1xqwjk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FrTO1xqwjk)
In the News: young adult literature in current events

"What Terrifies Teens In Today's Young Adult Novels? The Economy" (2013) - Marcela Valdes

Science Fiction Readings and Media

Required Materials

Readings:

*Roadside Picnic (1972) - Arkady & Boris Strugatsky*

Video: related visual content

Strugatsky Changed Sci-Fi World Forever (View the first two minutes: 0:00 - 2:07)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hAoEThQP7M](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4hAoEThQP7M)

In the News: young adult literature in current events

Scientists on Their Favourite Science Fiction


The Word "Taser" Comes From a Young Adult Sci-Fi Novel

Autobiography Readings and Media

Required Materials

Readings:

*Some Assembly Required* (2014) - Arin Andrews (For Week 7 discussion)

*It's Kind of a Funny Story* (2006) - Ned Vizzini (For Week 8 discussion)

Online Communities: viewpoints from around the web


Videos: related visual content

Arin Andrews and Katie Hill Interview:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oFdSwMfey_g

Ned Vizzini interview:
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-t6DYm3-j3M

In the News: young adult literature in current events

http://www.thesmokinggun.com/documents/celebrity/million-little-lies
Historical Fiction Readings and Media

Required Materials

Readings:

*Mare's War* (2009) - Tanita S. Davis

*Young Adult Literature: from Romance to Realism* (2010) - Michael Cart (available online through the UT library)

Historical Fiction section p. 104-107

Online Communities: viewpoints from around the web

"YA Historical Fiction: Windows to the Past for Readers of the Future"

"The Age of YA: A Timeline of Historical Fiction"

In the News: young adult literature in current events

A Literary Tour of Historical Y.A.
Graphic Novel Readings and Media

Required Materials

Readings:

*Full Metal Alchemist* Volume 1 (2001) - Hiromu Arakawa

Online Communities: viewpoints from around the web

**The Philosophy of Fullmetal Alchemist's Hiromu Arakawa**
(http://www.themarysue.com/hiromu-arakawas-fma-part-2/)

"There is no such thing as a painless lesson."
by Caitlin Donovan  
(http://www.themarysue.com/author/caitlin-donovan/)
(http://www.crunchyroll.com/comics/manga)  
(http://www.epicreads.com/blog/the-age-of-ya-a-timeline-of-historical-fiction/)

Video: related visual content

An example of Anime is this episode of the popular series

**Fairy Tale**  
(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sAxbl5FoWbk)

In the News: young adult literature in current events

The AnimeNewsNetwork  
(http://www.animenewsnetwork.com/encyclopedia/lexicon.php?id=30) is also a great source for manga news.
Realistic Fiction Readings and Media

Required Materials

Readings:

\[ \text{In Darkness (2013) - Nick Lake (for Week 11 discussion)} \]
\[ \text{Gabi, A Girl in Pieces (2014) - Isabel Quintero (for Week 12 discussion)} \]

Online Communities: viewpoints from around the web

The Next Big Thing: Contemporary/Realistic Fiction
http://www.yalsa.ala.org/thehub/2012/10/10/the-next-big-thing-contemporary-realistic-fiction/


Realistic YA Fiction Is Here to Stay (Then Again, It Never Went Away) http://parnassusmusing.net/2014/06/30/realistic-ya-fiction-is-here-to-stay-then-again-it-never-went-away/

In the News: young adult literature in current events


Fan Fiction Readings and Media

Required Materials

Assignment:

Begin work on your FanFiction writing assignment. Project is due.

Readings:


Online Communities: viewpoints from around the web

*My Immortal* (2005) - Tara Gilesbie (Arguably the worst Fan Fiction ever, read as much as you can stand)

Video: related visual content

*Welcome to Fanfiction.Net* (2015) - JelloApocalypse (Highly satirical writing guide for Fan Fiction and fanfiction.net)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MR7ualFVFIM](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MR7ualFVFIM)
I Will Go Down With This Ship (2012) - Dan Howell [Danisnotonfire] (As linked within the introduction for your review)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c61d72fpa4c

FANDOMS (2012) - Dan Howell [Danisnotonfire] (Helps explain in simple language what Fandoms (or, "Fan kingdoms") are like)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oqYkERuoMN8

In the News: young adult literature in current events

"Stephen King's 'Finders Keepers'" (2015) - Laura Lippman (Review of King's newest novel, the plot of which is based on the dark relationship between author and reader, a horror turn on Fan Fiction, as it were. King's Misery is also based on the dark relationship between an author and his "Number One Fan").

http://www.nytimes.com/2015/05/31/books/review/stephen-kings-finders-keepers.html?_r=0
Author Focus Readings and Media

Required Materials

Readings:

Article: The 8 Habits of Highly Successful Young-Adult Fiction

An Interview with Neil Gaiman the Internet’s Favorite Fantasy Writer by Laurie Penny


Online Communities: viewpoints from around the web


The Hunger Games Trilogy Fan Site, another minor example of Fandom - [http://www.hungergamestrilogy.net/](http://www.hungergamestrilogy.net/)

Pottermore, a massive and author-backed fan site, like the Nerd Fighter community, but more directly connected to the literature and world of Harry Potter. In fact, there's more content to read in relation to the books, all for free. - [https://www.pottermore.com/en-us/](https://www.pottermore.com/en-us/)

Video: related visual content

Suzanne Collins Answers Questions about the Hunger Games Trilogy (2010) - This is Teen

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FH15DI8ZW14](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FH15DI8ZW14)
Misconceptions about Harry Potter (2015) - Mental_Floss on Youtube
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s-vTml27QHY

A Conversation Between JK Rowling and Daniel Radcliffe (2013) - BBC Productions (?)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7BdVHWz1DPU

Sharon Draper speaks on her controversial novel Panic
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ShdYGTjxhQ

Neil Gaiman 2012 Commencement Speech "Make Good Art"
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=plWexCiD-kA
Literature and Movies Readings and Media

Required Materials

Readings:


Choose one of the following book and movie combinations:


Online Communities: viewpoints from around the web

(http://thedissolve.com/features/the-conversation/477-how-does-divergent-bode-for-the-future-of-ya-adapt/)

"If I Stay: The Dichotomy of Teen Melodrama on Page and Screen"

Video: related visual content