

## Survey of Young Adult Literature

INF 315W

Unique #27393

Spring 2017

Instructor: Zandra Lopez, Adjunct Professor

Email: Through Canvas LMS

Office Hours: By negotiation, I do not have an office on campus, but I would be willing to meet with you at a planned time on campus or via conference tool in Canvas.

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

#### **INF 315W: Survey of Young Adult Literature**

This course is a survey of young adult literature (YAL) commonly read by people ages sixteen to twenty-five years old. The genres of fantasy, autobiography, historical fiction, realistic fiction, science fiction, and fan fiction will be explored. In addition to genres, students will also become familiar with YAL authors, formats, popular banned books, social movements, and literature adapted for the movies.

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

#### **Learning Outcomes**

By the end of this course, students will:

- Identify common themes associated with YAL novels by identifying various plots and genres.
- Examine 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 YAL plots and subject matter from published materials, and attention paid to the lives and literary careers of significant YAL writers.
- Evaluate reading materials for young adults in context to the maturing and evolving lives of the characters within the YAL novel and determine the intended audiences within the age group of sixteen to twenty five.
- Evaluate how the characters and audience of YAL differ from their pre-modern counterparts and the social cultural crisis and life events that mean the most to this group of young adults or teenagers.
- Distinguish between genres and recognize recurring themes within YAL, with an emphasis in fantasy, historical, science fiction, realistic, autobiographical, and fan fiction.

## Course Format:

INF 315W: Survey of Young Adult Literature has no face-to-face class meetings. The course is entirely web-based. We will use Canvas <http://course.utexas.edu> to distribute course materials, communicate, collaborate, post grades, take quizzes, or surveys. You can find [Canvas support online](#) or at the ITS Help Desk at 512-475-9400, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

**Required Materials:** Students are required to read 10 Young Adult titles for this course. Listed below are the 10 titles in alphabetical order. A copy of each novel is on reserve at PCL or can be purchased through the UT Coop. Supplementary readings will be sent to you through links or pdfs in Canvas.

|                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| Alexie, Sherman     | <i>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian</i> |
| Andrews, Arin       | <i>Some Assembly Required</i>                          |
| Arakawa, Hiromu     | <i>Fullmetal Alchemist volume 1</i>                    |
| Chbosky, Stephen    | <i>The Perks of Being a Wallflower</i>                 |
| Davis, Tanita S.    | <i>Mare's War</i>                                      |
| Farmer, Nancy       | <i>House of Scorpion</i>                               |
| Marchetta, Melina   | <i>Finnikin of the Rock</i>                            |
| McCormick, Patricia | <i>Sold</i>  |
| Myers, Walter Dean  | <i>Monster</i>   |
| Satrapi, Marjane    | <i>Persepolis</i>                                      |



## **Internet Access**

To succeed in this course, students must have regular, reliable Internet access. If you do not have access to a personal computer, you may use the School of Information IT Lab (UTA 1.210) while a student in this course. The lab has both Macs and PCs available.

## **Participation in Forum Discussions**

Active participation is crucial to student success in an online class and requires regular posting to course discussion forums.

## **ASSESSMENTS**

### **Weekly Discussion**

Requirements

- Posts submitted after deadline will not receive credit. A discussion prompt will be posted each Sunday evening.
- Students must demonstrate they have completed the readings by using themes, quotes, details, etc. to support your argument, questions, or reflection.
- 1 initial post 600 words minimum, 2 responses each 250 words minimum.

\*\*Discussions should be addressed weekly. Each week a new discussion will open and remain unlocked for 7 days, and as stated above, prompts will be posted on **Sunday evening**. For full credit, you should post a substantive, thoughtful, and well-written response to this prompt by Thursday **at 11:59pm**. Read your fellow students' discussion postings and respond to at **least two of your classmates' posts by Saturday at 11:59pm**.

### **Weekly Learning Activities**

Once a discussion for a novel is complete, you will be asked to complete a learning activity. Learning activities will be posted on **Sunday morning** and are due the following **Sunday at 11:59pm**. Weekly learning activities will include the following:

#### **Book Talk Flier**

A one page document that briefly describes, summarizes, and sells the book to young adults. Your flier must include key information about the book, who might be interested in reading it, key quote(s), and genre. Your flier must also include a visual, a picture of the book and other copyright friendly images (I will provide you with these websites) that you think might help YAs be drawn to the book. Additionally, include other books the students might enjoy if they liked this book.

#### **Creative Activity**

Students will be asked to use web 2.0 tools (links will be provided by the instructor) to create small projects based on the novel being read.

#### **One-Pager**

One page reflections of books (these are different than discussion posts). These will be provided to you via Canvas.

#### **Quizzes**

Quizzes will be open book and have a time limit.

**Final Project:** Choose from 1 of the 3 options below. The final project is due in two stages. The first draft is due **April 4th**.

- Create an annotated bibliography using MLA format. You will include the novels that we read in class, and an additional 5 novels. YAL novels chosen should have copyright dates of 2012 and above. Annotations should include genre, format, and a 100-150 word summarization of the novel. Please note that summaries should be original work and not copied.
- Create a book trailer for a YAL book of your choosing. For the rough draft you must submit a storyboard. Your trailer should include the following elements, an image of the book cover, quote, and summary. Additionally, your trailer should have appropriate transitions, music, and should be appealing to young adults.
- 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'm looking for confirmation that you understand the genre, so once you've chosen one, stay within its bounds and don't be afraid to use tropes.

### **Grading System**

Discussion 40%

Learning activities 35%

Final Project 25%

### **Grading Scale**

| <b>Letter Grade</b> | <b>Percent</b> |
|---------------------|----------------|
| A                   | 93-100%        |
| A-                  | 90-92          |
| B+                  | 87-89          |
| B                   | 83-86          |
| B-                  | 80-82          |
| C+                  | 77-79          |
| C                   | 73-76          |
| C-                  | 70-72          |
| D+                  | 67-69          |
| D                   | 63-66          |
| D-                  | 60-62          |
| F                   | 59 or          |

|  |       |
|--|-------|
|  | below |
|--|-------|

### Course Schedule

**\*\*This syllabus represents my current plans. As the semester progresses I made need to make modifications. Always look in the Canvas calendar for confirmation of assignments.**

| Week | Date | Main Topic(s)   | Assignments  | What to Read  |
|------|------|---|--|---|
| 1    | 1/17 | Module 1:<br>Introduction to Course<br>YAL Beginnings   | Introduction Google<br>Slide<br>EdPuzzle YAL Video   | <i>Perks of Being a<br/>Wallflower</i><br>Part 1 and 2                                |
| 2    | 1/22 | Module 2: Introduction to<br>Genres & Required Reading  | Discussion Post  | <i>Perks of Being a<br/>Wallflower</i><br>Part 3 and 4                                |
| 3    | 1/29 | Module 3: Banned Books<br>and YAL adapted for<br>movies | Discussion Post <i>Perks of<br/>Being a Wallflower</i>   | <i>Finnikin of the Rock</i><br>Chapters 1-15  |
| 4    | 2/5  | Module 4: Fantasy Fiction                               | Learning Activity <i>Perks<br/>of Being a Wallflower</i>   | <i>Finnikin of the Rock</i><br>Chapters 1-30  |
| 5    | 2/12 |   | Discussion <i>Finnikin of<br/>the Rock</i>   | Read <i>Sold</i>  |
| 6    | 2/19 | Module 5: Realistic Fiction                             | Discussion <i>Sold</i> &<br>Learning Activity for<br><i>Finnikin of the Rock</i>                           | <i>The Absolutely True<br/>Diary of a Part-Time<br/>Indian</i><br>Read to Rowdy Gives |
| 7    | 2/26 |   | Learning Activity <i>Sold</i>  | Finish <i>The Absolutely<br/>True Diary of a<br/>Part-Time Indian</i>                 |
| 8    | 3/1  |   | Discussion <i>The<br/>Absolutely True Diary of<br/>a Part-Time Indian</i>                                  | Read <i>House of<br/>Scorpion</i> up to<br>Chapter 18                                 |
| 9    | 3/12 | Spring Break  |  |   |
| 10   | 3/19 | Module 6: Fan Fiction &<br>YAL Authors                  | Discussion Fan Fiction<br>Learning Activity <i>The<br/>Absolutely True Diary of<br/>a Part-Time Indian</i> | Finish <i>House of<br/>Scorpion</i>   |

|    |      |   |  |                                    |
|----|------|---|--|------------------------------------|
| 11 | 3/26 | Module 7: Science Fiction                 | Discussion <i>House of Scorpion</i>  | Read <i>Monster</i>                |
| 12 | 4/2  | Module 8: Multicultural Realistic Fiction | Discussion <i>Monster</i><br>Learning Activity<br><i>House of Scorpion</i><br>First Draft of Final Project Due | Read <i>Fullmetal Alchemist</i>    |
| 13 | 4/9  | Module 9: Manga                           | Discussion <i>Fullmetal Alchemist</i><br>Learning Activity<br><i>Monster</i>                                   | Read <i>Some Assembly Required</i> |
| 14 | 4/16 | Module 10: Autobiographical               | Discussion <i>Some Assembly Required</i><br>Learning Activity<br><i>Fullmetal Alchemist</i>                    | Read <i>Persepolis</i>             |
| 15 | 4/23 |   | Discussion <i>Persepolis</i><br>Learning Activity <i>Some Assembly Required</i><br>Final Project Due           | Read <i>Mare's War</i>             |
| 16 | 4/30 | Module 11: Historical Fiction             | Discussion <i>Mare's War</i><br>Learning Activity<br><i>Persepolis &amp; Mare's War</i><br>Final Project Due   |                                    |

## **COURSE POLICIES**

All assignments are due on the date listed. No make-up, late, or e-mailed assignments will be accepted.

## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

### **Academic Integrity**

The University of Texas policies on academic integrity can be found on the [Student Conduct and Academic Integrity](#) website. Academic integrity is expected and any non-compliance is met with zero tolerance by this instructor.

### **Students with Disabilities**

Students with a documented disability may request appropriate academic accommodations from the [Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities](#), 512-471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (video phone).

## **IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION**

### Evacuation Information

The following recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the [Office of Campus Safety and Security](#), 512-471-5767

Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when an alarm or alert is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside, unless told otherwise by an official representative.

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors. Do not re-enter a building unless given instruction by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.
- Link to information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: [www.utexas.edu/emergency](http://www.utexas.edu/emergency)