ENGLISH 3306: Young Adult Literature

Instructor: Pamela Herron
Semester: Fall 2015
CRN: 12243
Classroom: LART 122
Credits: 3
Office: Hudspeth 209
Office Hrs: by appointment.
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Texts:  See attached book list and course calendar.

Purpose: This course is a survey of major works of fiction that appeal to the young adult reader with emphasis on contemporary novels and short stories. It is designed to help you understand and appreciate various texts through critical analysis and discussion. Students will be exposed to a variety of texts from different genre. We will examine and analyze elements of literature in the texts including character, setting, plot structure, theme, style and use of symbolism and archetypes.

Procedure: The course will focus on the assigned texts and may include other assigned articles. These books will serve as the springboard for individual, small group, and whole class discussion and analysis. Students are also expected to read and analyze other texts for presentation to the class. Please read all assignments thoroughly and carefully, so that others can learn from your interpretations and you can learn from the interpretations of others through class discourse.

Grading Scale: 
- A = 450-500 points; B = 374-449 points; C = 273-373 points, D = 172=272 points;
- F = 171 points and below

Assignments:
- Annotated notes and short reflective papers or Blackboard discussions on each of the texts (11 assignments approx. 1000 words at 25 pts. each for a total of 275 pts.) Assigned papers are due the same day the book is to be discussed in class. Some books will also include online discussion that may be assigned instead of or in addition to the paper. Word count and bibliography MUST be included on each paper.
- Students will write 3 analytical papers (1500 words) for the course. The first will be on The Book Thief, the second will be a critical analysis of your choice of a YA novel, the third will be on any 7-10 poems of your choice from This Same Sky. (50 pts. each for a total of 150 pts.)
- Students will individually analyze and present as a lesson plan to the class one young adult book not on the list, choice approved by instructor. Students must sign up for their book and a class meeting to present by mid-Feb. (50 pts.)
- Please keep all annotations, graded reflections and papers until the end of the semester.
- Class Participation (25 pts.) This is a subjective grade based on your participation and engagement with the class and your classmates throughout the semester.

Attendance and Participation: Active participation is essential. Lack of participation in class discussion either in class or online or failure to read/analyze the assigned texts will result in a reduction of points from your assignments. Cell phones and computers will be turned off at the beginning of class. This includes no text messaging. If you must eat in class, please limit your food to a small, quietly consumed snack. Because learning rarely happens in isolation, but from a sharing of ideas and experiences, attendance at every class is mandatory. Since emergencies do arise, 2 absences will be allowed without penalty; after that absence, you will lose 10 points for each class you miss, regardless of the reason. Students who miss a portion of the class will lose a commensurate number of points. These points will be deducted from the total accumulation of points you have earned by the end of the semester. If you miss a class, it is YOUR responsibility to contact a CLASSMATE, not the instructor, to get information on what was covered that day and copies of any papers that were passed out. It is assumed that since you signed up for this time slot, you are able to make the class in a timely manner. If you come to class late, points will be deducted from your assigned paper. Make-up papers will be allowed only with a documented excuse (i.e. medical emergency or military duty). Attendance will be taken at the beginning of class; those students entering class after roll call are counted tardy; each tardy counts as half an absence. It is your responsibility to notify the instructor at the end of class if you are tardy. Do not assume that I have noted your appearance after roll call is taken. Students missing more than 20% of classes (6 classes) will be dropped. You do not need to contact me if you are going to be absent.
Technology: Please note this is course uses Blackboard and related tools extensively. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the appropriate tools. IT Help in the UTEP Library is a great resource. You are expected to participate fully in both assigned papers and online assignments and discussions. Problems with connections should be anticipated and are not an excuse for missing an assignment. Please look over the separate Blackboard Guidelines to ensure that you understand the course expectations and requirements.

Plagiarism and theft of intellectual property: If you use work from someone else and submit it as your own; if you use work from another source in your assignments and do not give direct credit to your source; or if someone with whom you are working writes/creates any part of the work for you, you are plagiarizing. Acts of plagiarism are acts of theft, and will be dealt with swiftly according to UTEP’s established policy. All assignments will be submitted through SafeAssign on Blackboard to help you with appropriate citation.

Assignments: All out-of-class assignments MUST be typed, double-spaced. 12 pt. font (10 pt. Arial), unless otherwise stated. All assignments must include a bibliography at the end of the paper (separate page not necessary) with a word count on the front. In some cases I may allow assignments be emailed to me which should be sent as an attachment in Microsoft Word and saved as Rich Text Format. Save a copy of your assignments before you hand them in, as well as keep returned assignments until the end of the semester so you can keep abreast of your grade. Please ensure that you understand the requirements for the assignments before you begin, and give yourself ample time to complete them so that you can turn in your best work. Assignments are due at the beginning of class or by the online deadline. Online assignments will not be accepted late. If you know you are going to be absent, give it to a classmate to turn in or turn it in early. Please note: Assignments that do not follow the given directions will not be given a passing grade. There are no "redo's." Late assignments arranged by instructor will lose 5 points per day.

Liberal Arts Honors Program - This class has been designated as a Liberal Arts Honors Program [LAHP] course. It has received this designation because it features at least five of the Honors course criteria, which include student leadership, advanced readings and/or reviews, opportunities for intensive writing, opportunities for intensive research, opportunities to utilize technology, opportunities to make extensive use of campus resources, community-based experiences, pre-professional opportunities, and development of critical thinking. In broader terms, this course is honors-designated because of its creativity and/or intellectual rigor, both of which are integral components of the Liberal Arts Honors Program. No additional coursework is necessary for this course to count towards the LAHP Honors minor. If you are not a member of the LAHP, and are interested in the program, please visit the LAHP website at http://academics.utep.edu/lahp.

This course is designated as Liberal Arts Honors Program LAHP course. Students accepted into LAHP should notify the instructor. If you are interested in learning more about LAHP, please contact me.

UTEP Resources

CASS (Center for Accommodations and Support Services) – If you have a disability and need classroom accommodations, please contact The Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at 747-5148, or by email to cass@utep.edu, or visit their office located in the UTEP Union East, Room 106. For additional information, please visit the CASS website at www.sa.utep.edu/cass.

Military Student Success Center – If you are active military, a veteran, or a family member of military personnel, please visit the Military Student Success Center in the UTEP University Library Room 205 for help with benefits, registration, and tips for being successful at UTEP. You can also call them at 747-5342, or visit their website at http://academics.utep.edu/Default.aspx?alias=academics.utep.edu/militaryservicesoffice

University Counseling Center – If you are having a difficult time with personal relationships or with college life, please visit the University Counseling Center at the UTEP Union West, Room 202, or contact them at 747-5302, or visit their website http://sa.utep.edu/counsel/. They provide one on one counseling as well as many helpful workshops

PLEASE REALIZE AT ALL TIMES THAT YOU ARE PREPARING TO ENTER A PROFESSIONAL CAREER. IN THIS CLASS, YOU ARE EXPECTED TO LEARN, BEHAVE, AND DRESS IN THE COURTEOUS, CONSCIENTIOUS, AND GENERALLY BUSINESS-LIKE MANNER CALLED FOR IN THE FIELD OF EDUCATION.

Extra Help: Students may see me by appointment. Help is also available at the UTEP Library Tutoring and Learning Center, Room 30, 747-5366.
This syllabus is subject to change at my discretion to meet instructional needs and/or to accommodate time constraints. Bring this syllabus and your assigned books to class daily.

Assignments: The assignments are listed on their due date; the reflection paper for a book is due at the beginning of class on the day we discuss that book.

Wk 1  Introduction to class and review of syllabus. Introduction of Elements of Fiction. Please understand and memorize the Elements of Fiction. They are important throughout the semester. Reflection assignment in class: What is young adult literature? Read by Wednesday: The Great Gilly Hopkins (1)

Assignment: Select a young adult book for semester project. Selection must be approved by the instructor. Sign up for a presentation date/time before the end of September.

Wk 2  Love That Dog (2) Utilize poetry resource folder on Blackboard. Please read poems at back of book before you read the novel.

Wk 3  Book Thief Analytical paper #1 due

Sept 18  Last day to select P/F option.

Wk 4  Chains (3)

Wk 5  Breaking Through/Gabi, Girl in Pieces (4) Comparison of the 2 novels

Wk 6  Brown Girl Dreaming (5)

Wk 7  American Born Chinese /Persepolis (6) Comparison of the 2 graphic novels

Analytical paper #2 (Novel of your choice) due

Wk 8  A Step from Heaven/Inside Out and Back Again (7) Comparison of the 2 novels

Wk 9  The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian (8)

Oct 30  Course Drop Deadline

Wk 10  Mockingbird(9)

Wk 11  Presentations/This Same Sky/Analytical paper #3 due

Wk 12  Presentations. Environmentally sensitive novel. You may choose from Hoot, Ship Breaker, Firestorm, Breathe, Water Knife, or another novel approved by the instructor. (10)

Wk 13  Presentations

Wk 14  Presentations/Final Reflection Paper (11) due: What is young adult literature and how has your understanding of YA changed since the beginning of the semester? Use your reflection paper from the beginning of class to frame your thoughts.

Wk 15  Presentations. Dec 4 will be our last class meeting.
The Great Gilly Hopkins
Katherine Paterson

Reading level: Ages 9-12
Paperback: 160 pages
Publisher: HarperCollins (June 17, 1987)

Love That Dog
Sharon Creech

Reading level: Young Adult
Publisher: Scholastic

The Book Thief
Markus Zusak

Reading level: Young Adult
Paperback: 576 pages
Publisher: Knopf Books for Young Readers (September 11, 2007)
ISBN: 978-0439569866

Breaking Through
Francisco Jimenez

Reading level: Young Adult
Paperback: 208 pages
Publisher: Sandpiper (October 1, 2002)

Gabi, Girl in Pieces
Isabel Quintero

ISBN: 978-1935955955
Cinco Puntos

Chains
Laurie Halse Anderson

ISBN-10: 1596431520
Publisher: Atheneum (January 5, 2010)
Paperback: 336 pages

Brown Girl Dreaming
Jacqueline Woodson

ISBN: 978-0399252518
Nancy Paulson Books

American Born Chinese
Gene Luen Yang

Reading level: Young Adult
Paperback: 240 pages
Publisher: First Second; Revised edition (September 5, 2006)

Persepolis
Marjane Satrapi

ISBN: 978-0375714573
Reading level: Young Adult
Publisher: Pantheon

Inside Out and Back Again
Thanhha Lai

ISBN: 978-0061962790
Harper Collins

A Step From Heaven
An Na

ISBN: 05148800799
Reading level: high school and up
Publisher: Speak

The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian
Sherman Alexie

Reading level: Young Adult
Paperback: 288 pages
Publisher: Little, Brown Young Readers; Reprint edition (April 1, 2009)

Mockingbird
Katherine Erskine

ISBN: 9780142417751
Reading level: Young Adult
Publisher: Puffin Books/Penguin

This Same Sky: A Collection of Poems from Around the World
Selected by Naomi Shihab Nye

ISBN-10: 0064473783
Publisher: Aladdin (May 1, 1996)

Choose one of the following novels for your last reflective paper or another environmentally sensitive novel approved by me.

Hoot
Carl Hiaasen

ISBN 978-0440419395
Publisher: Yearling Random House

Ship breaker
Paolo Bacigalupi

ISBN 978-0316056199
Publisher: Little Brown