

INF 315 E

27393 INF 315 W Survey of Young Adult Literature

Fall 2016 | *Online

Instructor: **Zandra Lopez email:**

Office Hours: By appointment (or via e-mail)

TA Pool contact information: ta_pool@ischool.utexas.edu. Do not send the TAs personal messages via Canvas as they work various shifts. You will receive timely assistance by using the ta_pool@ischool.utexas.edu e-mail address.

*We will use [Canvas \(Links to an external site.\)](#) to distribute course materials, to communicate and collaborate online, to take tests, to post grades, and to submit assignments. You can find Canvas support [online \(Links to an external site.\)](#) and at the ITS Help Desk at 512-475-9400, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m..

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 story-making 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 pre-modern 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 eleven 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
- *Monster* (1999) - Walter Dean Myers
- *White Cat* (2010) - Holly Black
- *Roadside Picnic* (2012)c- Arkady and Boris Strugatsky
- *In Darkness* (2013) - Nick Lake
- *Gabi A Girl in Pieces*(2014) - Isabel Quintero
- *It's Kind of a Funny Story* (2006) - Ned Vizzini
- *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood* (2003) - Marjane Satrapi
- *Fullmetal Alchemist Volume 1*(1995) - Hiromu Arakawa
- *Mare's War* (2009) - Tanita S. Davis

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.

- 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 Wednesday of its designated week and locked down on the following Wednesday at 11:59 p.m.

Timed quizzes: (per Module) 21 detailed questions over readings and topics covered in each unit. Quizzes will be open book and have a 30 minute time limit. 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.

[Review Quiz Time & Proctoring Procedures Canvas Page](#)

All quizzes will be taken using Canvas, so please take a look at the Canvas conference tool and make sure you know how to connect to your proctor. The following link describes how to join a Canvas conference: <https://guide.instructure.com/m/4212/l/41982-how-do-i-join-a-web-conference>. In addition, you will also be asked to share your desktop and webcam, which is located directly next to the right of the microphone button. Should you have any questions throughout the semester, feel free to contact the ISchool Tech Lab at ta_pool@ischool.utexas.edu.

Quizzes that were submitted without being logged on to the Canvas Conference tool webcam will not be accepted.

In the event you are unable to take one at those times, you must contact the TA_pool@ischool.utexas.edu no later than 5pm the Tuesday of the week the quiz is due to arrange to take the quiz IN PERSON at the iSchool IT Lab. ***Requests for special quiz times received after 5pm on Tuesday will receive a zero for that week.***

Final project: choose 1 of the q3 options below. The final project is due in two stages. The 1st draft is due October 28th. The final version is due November 29th.

- 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.

Course Schedule

- **This represents current plans. As the semester progresses I made need to make modifications.
- DP abbreviation for Discussion/Post *Quiz dates-TBD
- BR abbreviation for Begin Reading novel this is merely a suggestion you can read closer to novel discussions or modify based on your calendar.

| Week | Date | Main Topic(s) | Assignments |
|------|-------------|---|---|
| 1 | 8/24-8/28 | Introductions | DP Evolution of YA Literature BR <i>Perks of Being a Wallflower</i> |
| 2 | 8/29-9/4 | Required Books Discussion | DP Due Wed. for Evolution of YA |
| 3 | 9/5-9/11 | Novel Focus: <i>Perks of Being a Wallflower</i> | DP Due Wed. for Required Books BR <i>Looking for Alaska</i> Thurs. |
| 4 | 9/12-9/18 | Novel Focus: <i>Looking for Alaska</i> | DP Due Wed. for <i>Perks of Being a Wallflower</i> BR <i>Monster</i> Thurs. |
| 5 | 9/19-9/25 | Banned Books Discussion | DP Due Wed. for <i>Looking for Alaska</i> BR <i>White Cat</i> Thurs. Quiz for both <i>Perks of Being a Wallflower</i> & <i>Looking for Alaska</i> |
| 6 | 9/26-10/2 | Multiple Genres: <i>Monster</i> | DP Due Wed. for Banned Books BR- <i>Roadside Picnic</i> Thurs. |
| 7 | 10/03-10/9 | Genre Fantasy: <i>White Cat</i> | DP Due Wed. for <i>Monster</i> Discussion BR <i>In Darkness</i> Thurs. Quiz <i>Monster</i> |
| 8 | 10/10-10/16 | Genre Science Fiction: <i>Roadside Picnic</i> | DP Due Wed. for <i>White Cat</i> Discussion BR <i>Gabi a Girl in Pieces</i> Thurs. Quiz <i>White Cat</i> |
| 9 | 10/17-10/23 | Genre Realistic Fiction: <i>In Darkness</i> | DP Due Wed. for <i>Roadside Picnic</i> BR <i>It's Kind of a Funny Story</i> Thurs. Quiz <i>Roadside Picnic</i> |

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| 10 | 10/24-10/30 | Genre Realistic: <i>Gabi a Girl in Pieces</i> | DP Due Wed. for <i>In Darkness</i> BR <i>Alchemist/Persepolis</i> Thurs. First Draft of Final Project Due 28 th Quiz <i>In Darkness</i> |
| 11 | 10/31-11/6 | Genre Autobiography: <i>It's Kind of a Funny Story</i> | DP Due Wed. for <i>Gabi a Girl in Pieces</i> BR <i>Mare's War</i> Thurs. Quiz <i>Gabi a Girl in Pieces</i> |
| 12 | 11/7-11/13 | Genre Graphic Novels: <i>Full Metal Alchemist</i> Volume One & <i>Persepolis</i> | DP Due Wed. for <i>It's Kind of a Funny Story</i> Quiz <i>It's Kind of a Funny Story</i> |
| 13 | 11/14-11/20 | Genre Historical Fiction: <i>Mare's War</i> | DP Due Wed. for <i>Alchemist/Persepolis</i> 2 Posts One for each title Quiz for <i>Alchemist/Persepolis</i> (Flexibility here if we want to take one of these over break) |
| 14 | 11/21-11/27 | Fan Fiction Discussion Author Focus | DP Due Wed. <i>Mare's War</i> Work on Final Draft Quiz <i>Mare's War</i> |
| 15 | 11/28-12/4 | Wrap up discussions and complete project | DP Due Wed. or Fan Fiction & Author Focus 2 Posts Final Project Due 29 th |
| 16 | 12/5 | Last Class Day | |

Grading System:

Discussion 40%- 240 points possible (16 points total per week: 8 for post, 8 for both responses).

Quizzes 35%- 210 points possible (21 points per quiz)

Final Project 25%- 150 points possible

Writing Rubric: applies to Discussions and Final Project

Courtesy DePaul University Teaching Commons

Grading Scale 600 points

A 570-600

A- 540-569

B+ 523-539

B 510-522

B- 480-509

C+ 463-479

C 450-462

C- 420-449

D 360-419

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. (Links to an external site.) 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, 512-471-6259.