

ENGLISH 385
 ADOLESCENT/YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE
 SYLLABUS AND COURSE REQUIREMENTS
 DR. NANCY MACK

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE COURSE:

The purpose of this course is to introduce you to Young Adult Literature. You will expand your knowledge of high-quality young adult books by reading new works specifically written for young adults and by hearing the recommendations of others. We will read a variety of genres by a variety of authors, some of which will blur the boundaries of traditional novels. Responses to several works of literature will be personal, aesthetic, and intellectual in order to increase your understanding, appreciation and enjoyment of YAL. Your reading will be grounded in various pedagogical methods for response-based teaching. You will also critique various YAL resources for teachers.

The significance of Young Adult Literature will be stressed including theories about developmental, aesthetic, and cultural factors when selecting literature. You will become familiar with issues in literary censorship as well as research and scholarship related to YAL.

The goal is for you to complete two major assignments: a genre and a novel study that you will share with other students in class. This course will require reading one novel and three or more pieces of writing per week.

2. TEXTS:

Literature for Today's Young Adults 7th Edition by K. Donelson and A. P. Nilsen
The Giver by Lois Lowry **0440824400** or sequel
I Am the Cheese by Robert Cormier **0440940605**
Out of the Dust by Karen Hesse **0590371258**

One book out of each pair of books:

The Adventures of Blue Advenger by Norma Howe **0064472256**
Holes by Louis Sachar **0439244196**

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor **0553204440**
Toning the Sweep by Angela Johnson **0590481428**

Watsons Go To Birmingham Christopher Paul Curtis **0440414121**
Night John by Gary Paulsen **0440910145**

Whirligig by Paul Fleischman **0440228352**
Walk Two Moons by Sharon Creech **0064405176**

Additional selected and approved novels, nonfiction, poetry, and picture books.

3. MAJOR ASSIGNMENTS:

A. Individual Novel Study Project For a novel YAL novel selected by you and approved by the teacher you will do a project that includes: personal response, theme planning, quote collection, a review of resources, an author study, a literary classic connection, an artistic connection, a picturebook activity, a nonfiction connection, popular culture links, historical or current event links, reading journal prompts, and two literary elements activities. Each section of your project should be created to be useful for your future classroom. There will be weekly deadlines for each part of this

larger project. You will also do a booktalk that will be both written and oral. A booktalk and a presentation of your Novel Study Project are required. Save this project for use in the Capstone Course, English 486.

B. **Genre Study Presentation** You will sign up for a genre presentation that you will do in small groups. This will require you to report on the related chapter in your textbook, create a book display, write an annotated list of books, do a read aloud, and lead a trait activity.

C. **Midterm Essay Exam** This will be an in class essay exam over the textbook and related readings. You will be required to use sources and create a professional argument.

D. **Daily Responses** Various types of reading responses will be required weekly for each novel that you read. These cannot be made up if they are not completed on time.

Participation in daily discussions will be given a point value. If you do not come to class or do not participate in the discussion, you will lose all of the daily points.

Reading Journal Entries will be required for some of your textbook, resource, and fiction readings.

4. GRADES

A. **Grade Percentages**

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| Individual Novel Study Project | 45% | Due Weekly and Finals Week |
| Midterm Essay Exam | 20% | Due Sixth Week |
| Genre Study Presentation | 10% | Due Sixth to Tenth Weeks |
| Daily Responses, Participation and Journal Entries for whole group and paired novels | 25% | Due Weekly |

B. **Writing Problems** You can receive help at the Writing Center. If you have not visited the Writing Center at Wright State University, you owe yourself a trip to the basement of the library because our writing center is one of the best ones in the nation. The **Writing Center** can give you free tutoring on any paper that you need to write while you are here at WSU. You can make an appointment, call the Writer's Hotline (775-2158), or E-mail the web site.

C. **Evaluation** For daily assignments, you will receive **points** that will become 25% of your grade. For major written assignments, you will receive a grade sheet listing the primary traits that you will be expected to demonstrate in your work. I will evaluate each skill and give you a page of written comments with a **letter grade**.

D. **Incompletes** Incompletes are rarely given for this class. If you feel that there are compelling circumstances to warrant an incomplete, contact the instructor **before** the end of the quarter to make arrangements.

E. **Plagiarism** Wright State has a clear plagiarism policy on the university web site that you should read. As a future teacher, you should realize that you should never, ever plagiarize, no matter how stressed you are. Ask for an extension before you put your whole career at risk. Copying anything from the internet is plagiarism.

5. BASIC POLICIES:

A. **Attendance** **Regular attendance is expected. Poor attendance will lower your final grade.** This is not a correspondence course. Participating in discussion groups is essential to your grade. Just doing the assignments and coming to class now and then is not enough. Missing one class will be equal to missing half a week's worth of work. If you have more than two absences, you should

drop the class because you are at risk for failing the course. I refuse to judge one excuse as more valid than another. If you need to leave class early or if you need to come to class late frequently, you should drop the class and take it another quarter.

If you have to be absent, you should contact another student on the phone list before the next class period so that you can find out what you have missed. This way you can come to class with the work that was assigned while you were absent.

B. **Class Cancellation** Since Wright State rarely closes, we need a system for deciding when the weather is too bad for you to come to class. Rather than trying to call each one of you, I will follow the closing announcement for Sinclair University. So if the weather is bad, watch TV channels 2, 22, or 7 or listen to the radio for an announcement. I may be absent due to presentations at state and national conventions.

C. **Future Use of Your Work** I like to use real student papers as good examples in class. I also use student writing in workshops, conference presentations, and academic articles about teaching. I will make an effort to contact you if I publish your writing in a book or on the web. If you do not want your writing published or shared in a future class, please notify me in writing on your cover sheet. You will not be paid for your writing, but such a publication could be listed on your resume`. In addition, the work that you do this quarter will be utilized for your teacher portfolio that will be created in the ILA Capstone course. These materials will be important for job interviewing, Praxis III, and national licensure purposes.