

Course Number: English 375.1**Course Title: Young Adult Literature**

Professor: Jan Susina

Credit Hours: 3

Meeting Time: Monday-Thursday 1:00--3:50 p.m.

4 weeks: 5/16/11- 6/9/11

Meeting Place: Stevenson 308

Reference Number:

Required Texts:

J.D. Salinger. *The Catcher in The Rye* (Little Brown)

F. Scott Fitzgerald. *The Great Gatsby*. Notes & Preface by Russ McDonald (Penguin)

Harper Lee. *To Kill A Mocking Bird* (Warner Books)

Rachel Cohn & David Levithan. *Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist* (Knopf)

Sonya Sones. *What My Mother Doesn't Know* (Simon Pulse)

William Shakespeare. *A Midsummer's Night Dream*, ed. Russ McDonald (Penguin)

Stephenie Meyer. *Twilight* (Little Brown)

Mark Haddon. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in Night-Time* (Vintage)

Daniel Clowes. *Ghost World* (Fantagraphics Books)

Francesca Lia Block. *Weetzie Bat* (HarperTrophy)

Description of Course:

This course will emphasize reading of young adult novels with attention to the analysis of literary representation of the stages of adolescence. The course traces the development of the genre of adolescent literature and will investigate thematic and stylistic changes found in such texts. In addition to reading at books written specifically for adolescents, books read by adolescents, and books that are taught to adolescents in the classroom, the course will also examine other aspects of adolescent culture including films and TV programs featuring teen characters as well as music popular with teenagers and methods that advertisers attempt to create a youth market for teen products. Films will include Gary Ross's *Pleasantville*, Nicholas Ray's *Rebel without a Cause*, John Hughes's *The Breakfast Club*, Terry Zwigoff's *Ghost World* and Catherine Hardwicke's *Twilight*.

Format of Course:

Students will be required to write to one research paper (7-10 pages), while graduate students will write a longer research paper (12-15 pages) on an adolescent text or some aspect of adolescent culture. All students will write a short film analysis (3-5 pages). A final exam will be given at the end of the course and regular reading quizzes on the reading will be given throughout the course. The concentration nature of this summer school course makes attendance required as is active participation in class discussion.