

English 375.2: Young Adult Literature

Fall 2014, Professor: Jan Susina

Class Meets: Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 a.m. -12:15-p.m.

Meeting Place: STV 346

Office: Stevenson 402, Office Phone: (309) 438-3739

Office Email: jcsusina@ilstu.edu

Web site: ghostofthetalkingcricket.sqaurespace.com

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 12:30—1:30 p.m.

Tentative Syllabus

Aug. 20 Introduction and Review of the Course

Aug. 22 The Historical Development of the Concept of Adolescence &
Growth of Adolescent Literature
Howard Chudacoff's "Youth and Adolescence" and Ruth Graham's "Against
YA" (website) & Shannon Hale's "A Story for Everyone" (handout)

Aug. 27 J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*

Aug. 29 J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*
Nicholas Ray's *Rebel Without a Cause* (film)
****Deadline to Sign Up for Teen Film Paper****

Sept. 2 F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*

Sept. 4 F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*
Baz Luhrmann's *The Great Gatsby* (film)

Sept. 9 Tavi Gevinson's *Rookie Yearbook One*
Tavi Gevinson's "Five Years," Michael Schulman's "The Oracle of Girl
World," (website)

Sept. 11 Tavi Gevinson's *Rookie Yearbook One*
Lizzie Widdicombe's "Tavi Says" & Judy Abel's "Tavi and the Taviettes"
(website)

Sept. 16 Tavi Gevinson's *Rookie Yearbook One*
Emily Witt's "Tavi Forever" & Amy Larocca's "At 18, Tavi Gevinson is a
Fashion Veteran" (website)

Sept. 18 Teen Films & Teens in Films
Tavi Gevinson's "Teenage Disconnect and *The Virgin Suicides*"
****Teen Film Paper Due****

Sept. 23 Chip Kidd's *Kidd's Guide to Graphic Design*

- Sept. 25 Chip Kidd's *Kidd's Guide to Graphic Design*
**** Redesign Cover (Front & Back Due):** *Catcher in the Rye*, *Great Gatsby*,
Midsummer's Night Dream, or *To Kill a Mockingbird* Due
- Sept. 30 Rachel Cohen & David Levithan's *Nick and Nora's Infinite Playlist*
- Oct. 2 Rachel Cohen & David Levithan's *Nick and Nora's Infinite Playlist*
 Pete Sollett's *Nick and Nora's Infinite Playlist* (film)
- Oct. 7 "Smells Like Teen Spirit": Teens & Music: "Art of the Mix" website
Mixed Tape/CD Due
- Oct. 9 **Midterm Exam**
- Oct. 14 Sonya Sones's *What My Mother Doesn't Know*
- Oct. 16 Sonya Sones's *What My Mother Doesn't Know*
****Proposal for Research Paper Due****
- Oct. 21 William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer's Night Dream*
- Oct. 23 William Shakespeare's *A Midsummer's Night Dream*
 Tommy O'Haver's *Get Over It* (film)
- Oct. 28 Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*
- Oct. 30 Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*
- Nov. 4 Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*
 Robert Mulligan's *To Kill a Mockingbird* (film)
- Nov. 6 John Lewis's *March: Book 1*
 The Fellowship of Reconciliation's *Martin Luther King and the Montgomery Story*
 (web site)
- Nov. 11 John Green's *Looking for Alaska*
 Lauren Greenfield's *Kids + Money (film)* (website)
- Nov. 13 John Green's *Looking for Alaska*
****Critical Paper Due****
- Nov. 18 Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*
- Nov. 20 Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*

Nov. 25 no class -- Thanksgiving Break
 Nov. 27 no class -- Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 2 Suzanne Collins's *The Hunger Games*

Dec. 4 Suzanne Collins's *The Hunger Games*
 Gary Ross's *The Hunger Games* (film)

Dec. 8-12 **Final Exam** (TBA).

Goals of Course:

This course will emphasize reading and analysis of various forms of literature intended for young adults within the broader context of contemporary youth culture--film, drama, television, video, music, magazines and comics and graphic novels--and the methods that advertisers attempt to reach adolescent consumers and create a teen market. The course will examine some texts that adolescents are often required to read in school as well as some texts that teens may read outside of the classroom. The course will trace the growth of the genre and investigate thematic and stylistic changes and topics in young adult literature.

Required Texts:

J.D. Salinger. *The Catcher in the Rye*. Little Brown.
 F. Scott Fitzgerald. *The Great Gatsby*, Notes & Preface by Matthew J. Bruccoli. Scribner.
 Tavi Gevinson, Ed. *Rookie Yearbook One*. Drawn and Quarterly.
 Chip Kidd. *Go: A Kidd's Guide to Graphic Design*. Workman Publishing.
 Rachel Cohn & David Levithan. *Nick & Norah's Infinite Playlist*. Knopf.
 Sonya Sones. *What My Mother Doesn't Know*. Simon Pulse.
 William Shakespeare. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, Ed. Russ McDonald. Penguin.
 Harper Lee. *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Warner Books.
 John Lewis. *March: Book 1*. Top Shelf.
 John Green. *Looking for Alaska*. Dutton.
 Ray Bradbury. *Fahrenheit 451*. Simon & Schuster.
 Suzanne Collins. *The Hunger Games*. Scholastic.

Recommended Text:

Joseph Gibaldi. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, Seventh Edition (MLA)

Writing Assignments:

Each undergraduate student will write two critical papers: an examination the presentation of teen characters in an adolescent film (3-5 pages, typed, double spaced paper) and a longer critical analysis (10-12 pages, typed doubled spaced) on an adolescent novel from the course. Graduate students will write on critical paper on an adolescent film (3-5 pages) and a longer critical paper (12-15 pages) on an adolescent novel from the course. Use the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* for appropriate citation in the critical papers. The critical paper on the adolescent novel need

a minimum of eight secondary sources. Only half of the secondary sources can be electronic. The paper needs to be original work and written specifically for this course.

Plagiarism/Cheating:

Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses and may be punished by failure on a paper, exam, or project and in some cases may result in failure in the course and/or expulsion from the Illinois State University. Please read the Illinois State University policy in the *Undergraduate Catalog* or the *Graduate Catalog* under “Academic Integrity.” Also review chapter 2 “Plagiarism and Academic Integrity” in the *MLA Handbook*. All work submitted for grading in this class needs to be your own original work created for this course.

Class Discussion:

Class attendance is important and is intended to be a valuable experience. All students are asked to read the material prior to class and come prepared to discuss the assignments in class. Students are expected to participate in class discussion and a portion of the final grade will be based on class participation. Class participation will be factored into the final grade. Graduate students will be asked to lead a portion of the class discussion on one of the assigned texts.

Class Assignments:

All students will be asked to complete a series of class assignments linked to the readings. A student missing a class in which an in-class quiz or in-class assignment is given or a class when a homework assignment is due will be unable to makeup the missed quiz or turn in late the assignment.

Class Attendance:

Class attendance is an important and valuable aspect of the course. If you aren't in class, you ought to have a good reason for your absence. Since you can't be two places at the same time, avoid scheduling other activities during class time. It is your responsibility to get the information you missed during your absence from other members of the class. Since class participation will be evaluated as part of your responsibilities in this course, missing more than *three* class sessions will lower your final grade one half a letter grade for each additional class sessions missed. Turn off cell phones and pagers during class. Three or more interruptions during the course will lower a student's final grade.

Exams:

There will be a midterm exam and a final exam given in this course. These will include a series short identifications and analysis as well as essay questions. The final exam will be offered according at the time established in final exam schedule for Fall 2015 when it is announced. Please purchase and bring to class at least one blue book for each exam.

Grading:

Grades on assignment will be assigned according to the following standard. Grades for papers: A+=100, A=95, A-=92; B+=87, B=85, B-=82; C+=78, C=75, C-=72; D+=67, D=65, D-=62; F=50. The final grade in the course will be assigned according to the

following scale: A= 90 and above, B= 80 and above, C=70 and above, D=60 and above, F=50 or lower. Illinois State University does not assign plus or minus in terms of final grades. Course grades will be based on the following assignments, which will be weighted as follows:

Adolescent film paper: 10%

Critical paper: 20%

Midterm exam: 20%

Final exam: 20%

Class assignments: 20%

Class participation: 10%

List of Films for Adolescent Film Paper:

Review the film on the IMDb (Internet Movie Database) website before selecting it.

Nicholas Ray's "Rebel Without a Cause" (1955)

Eli Kazan's "Splendor in Grass" (1961)

George Lucas's "American Graffiti" (1973)

Brian De Palma's "Carrie" (1976)

John Singleton's "Boyz n the Hood" (1991)

Amy Heckerling's "Fast Time at Ridgemont High" (1982)

Mary Ellen Mark's "Streetwise" (1984)

Michael Lehmann's "Heathers" (1988)

Maria Maggenti's "The Incredibly True Adventures of Two Girls in Love" (1995)

Steve James Frederick Marx & William Gates's "Hoop Dreams" (1994)

Amy Heckerling's "Clueless" (1995)

Francis Ford Coppola's "The Outsiders" (1983)

John Hughes's "Sixteen Candles" (1984)

John Hughes's "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" (1986)

Peter Weir's "Dead Poets' Society" (1989)

Tim Burton's "Edward Scissorhands" (1990)

Richard Linklater's "Dazed and Confused" (1993)

Baz Lurhmann's "William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet" (1996)

Chris Eyre's "Smoke Signals" (1998)

Gary Ross's "Pleasantville" (1998)

Gil Junger's "10 Things I Hate About You" (1999)

Sofia Coppola's "Virgin Suicides" (1999)

Whit Stillman's "Metropolitan" (1990)

Stacy Perlat's "Dogtown and Z-Boys" (2001)

Terry Zwigoff's "Ghost World" (2001)

Gurinder Chadha's "Bend It Like Beckham" (2002)

Jeffrey Blitz's "Spellbound" (2009)

Catherine Harwicke's "Thirteen" (2003)

Hayo Miyazaki's "Spirited Away" (2003)

Dennie Gordon's "What a Girl Wants" (2003)

Greg Mottola's "Superbad" (2007)

Jason Reitman's "Juno" (2007)

Catherine Hardwicke's "Twilight" (2008)

Andrew Fleming “Hamlet 2” (2008)
Peter Sollett’s “Nick and Norh’s Infinite Playlist” (2008)
Will Gluck’s “Easy A” (2010)
Anna Boden’s “It’s Kind of a Funny Story” (2010)
Sean McNamara’s “Soul Surfer” (2011)
Andrew Ross’s “The Hunger Games” (2012)
Stephen Chbosky’s “The Perks of Being a Wallflower” (2012)
Joss Whedon’s “Much Ado About Nothing” (2012)
Sofia Coppola’s “The Bling Ring” (2013)