

Materials for Young Adults 28365
INF 382F
Spring, 2013
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Goal

Students will develop critical skills in evaluating fiction and informational books and other media for young adults and better appreciate the role independent reading and investigation plays in developing literacy.

Objectives

Students will expand their knowledge of literature for young adults as they

- read widely and with discrimination.
- acquire knowledge of diverse authors and titles.
- become familiar with scholarly criticism of young adult literature.
- develop expertise in selecting and recommending a variety of works.
- practice the skills of annotating and summarizing.
- consider a variety of strategies to engage teen readers.
- prepare for active participation in class discussions.

Required texts

Literature for Today's Young Adults by Donelson and Nilsen. 9th edition. Pearson, 2013.

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green.

The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier.

Annie on My Mind by Nancy Garden.

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini.

Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson.

He Forgot to Say Goodbye by Benjamin Saenz.

Legend by Marie Lu.

Crossing the Wire by Will Hobbs.

It's Perfectly Normal by Robie Harris.

Hole in My Life by Jack Gantos.

Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi.

American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang.

- Attendance is required.
- Classes will begin on time. Please arrive on time and remain for the entire class.
- Laptops for class notes only.
- Bring your text and individual titles to class on the day they are to be discussed.

Grades

Class participation 20%

Please accept your responsibility for informed contributions to class discussions.

Reading log 40%

Special project 25%

Mid-semester exam 15% Blue books are to be used.

A 90-100 B 80-90 C 70-80 F 70 or below

Reading Logs

- Entries for all titles on the basic class list are required *as well as* others on the syllabus.
- An annotated record of each title is due on the day of the class discussion.
 - ~ provides a record for future reference.
 - ~ helps focus thoughtful responses.
 - ~ gives practice in a useful skill.

Work turned in late will be given a lower grade.
- The final Reading Log, **due April 23**, will include additional titles of your choosing, selected from a variety of genres.
- Annotations expressed in student’s original writing may include: genre, brief plot, setting, characterization, illustration, time period, theme, style and any other special qualities that should be remembered.

Three sentences are most often sufficient but that is not a strict rule.
- Your analysis of the work is to follow, giving a personal dimension.
- Please read all you can; the required titles are only a beginning.

This is your opportunity to demonstrate a commitment to the study of and appreciation for a variety of materials for young adults.
- Please note the Dean of Students statement on “Academic Integrity” and submit only your own writing.

- All independent choices **must** indicate an appropriate source for selection, such as
 - ~ winner of a major award such as the Printz, Alex, Carter G. Woodson, or Américas.
 - ~ list such as YALSA’s “Best of the Best”, or TLA’s “Tayshas”, or ALA’s Rainbow Books.
 - ~ positive review in periodicals such as *Booklist*; *VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates)*; *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy*; *The Horn Book*; or *ALAN online*.
 - ~ class bibliographies such as ”Recommended Independent Reading”
 - ~ our textbook and other academic source such as
 - 101 Great, Ready-to-Use Book Lists for Teens* by Nancy J. Keane
 - 500 Great Books for Teens* by Anita Silvey
 - Adolescents in Search for Meaning: Tapping the Powerful Resource of Story* by Mary Warner
 - Best Books for High School Readers* and supplement by Catherine Barr
 - Best Books for Young Adults* from YALSA
 - Book Crush: For Kids and Teens: Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment and Interest* by Nancy Pearl
 - Essentials of Young Adult Literature* by Carl M. Tomlinson
 - Senior High Core Collection: A Selection Guide* (includes annual supplements)
- Selections must be word-processed, double spaced and include a complete bibliographic entry.

FORMAT

Your name

Date

Author. Title. Publisher, date. Number of pages. Grade level. Genre. (Source).

Annotation.

Analysis.

Examples

Your name

Date

Nye, Naomi Shihab. A Maze Me: Poems for Girls. HarperCollins, 2005. 118p. Grades 7-10.

Poetry. (VOYA February, 2005).

Annotation.

Analysis.

Your name

Date

Taylor, Laini. Daughter of Smoke and Bone. Little/Brown, 2011. 418p. Grades 9-12.

Supernatural. (YALSA Best Fiction).

Annotation.

Analysis.

Your name

Date

Alexie, Sherman. The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian. Little, Brown, 2007. 229p. Grades 7–10. Realistic fiction. (National Book Award for Young Adults).

Annotation.

Analysis.

January 15

Introductions
Student profiles
Syllabus
Nilsen text
Reading logs
Grades
Recommended Independent Reading list and local resources

January 22

Developmental tasks of adolescents
Independent reading and literacy
The Power of Reading by Stephen Krashen
History of literature for young adults
Assignments due
Read Chapters 1 and 2 and Appendix A in text.
Read *The Fault in Our Stars* and *The Chocolate War*.
Prepare two possible discussion questions for each.
Explore John Green online.

January 29

Intellectual Freedom
Professional organizations
Awards and other selection tools
Classics
Recommended Books for the College Bound
Crossovers
Assignment due
Read Chapters 3 and 12 in text.
See Appendices B & C in text.
See ALA Office for Intellectual Freedom (Manual, 8th ed)
Read “The Students’ Right to Read”.
(<http://www.ncte.org/positions/statements/righttoreadguideline>).
See <http://www.ala.org/ala/issuesadvocacy/banned/bannedbooksweek/index.cfm>.
Visit YALSA online: note *Outstanding Books for the College Bound: Titles and Programs for a New Generation*
Read *Annie on My Mind*.

February 5

Evaluating fiction
Realistic fiction
Assignment due
Read Chapter 4.
Read *The Kite Runner* and suggest possible discussion questions.
Read and bring to share another YA novel of your choice.

February 12

Realistic fiction
Assignment due
Read *Speak*.
Read *He Forgot to Say Goodbye*.

February 19

Independent reading

February 26

Fantasy, Science Fiction, Utopias, and Dystopias
Assignment due
Read Chapter 5.
Read *Legend*.
Read and bring to share a title from a fantasy series.

March 5

Mid-semester exam
Bring blue book.
Poetry
Assignments due
Final day to sign up for Special Presentation topic.
Read Chapter 6.
Read and bring to share a book of poetry for young adults.

March 12

Spring break

March 19

Adventure, Westerns, Sports, and Mysteries
Assignments due
Read Chapter 7.
Read *Crossing the Wire*.
Read and bring to share a mystery.

March 26

History and history makers
Assignments due
Read Chapters 8 and 9.
See NTSA online “Outstanding Science Trade Books for Students”.
Read *It’s Perfectly Normal*.
Read *Hole in My Life*.
Read *Persepolis*.

April 2

Motivational strategies
Graphic novels
Assignment due
Read Chapter 10.
Read *American Born Chinese*.
Read and bring to share a nonfiction title of your choice.
Read and bring to share a journal article on library programming for YAs.

April 9

Literature in the classroom
Assignments due
Read Chapter 11.
Read a YA work of Jacqueline Woodson (*If You Come Softly*, *Behind You*, or *Lena*).
Presentations of Special Projects.

April 16

Presentations of Special Projects.

April 23

Reading Logs due.

April 24-27 Texas Library Association Annual Conference, Ft Worth

April 30

Presentations of Special Projects.