

Syllabus

ENGL 3223, version 1.2

Effective: June 01, 2018

ENGL 3223—Adolescent Literature

Course Description: Critical analysis and survey of literatures with adolescents as main characters and written for adolescent and adult audiences.

Textbooks and Other Materials

ODL is *not responsible* for student purchases that result in *the receipt of the wrong materials*. It is the responsibility of the student to order the correct textbook materials. Courses are written to specific textbook editions; edition substitutions *are not allowed*.

Textbooks

The following texts are required for this course and are listed in the order they will be studied. You may use any editions of these texts, many of which can be found at your local library.

- *The Chocolate War* by Robert Cormier.
- *Godless* by Pete Hautmann.
- *A Hero Ain't Nothin' but a Sandwich* by Alice Childress.
- *Cut* by Patricia McCormick.
- *Speak* by Laurie Halse Anderson.
- *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist* by Richard Cohn and David Levithan.
- *Annie on My Mind* by Nancy Garden.
- *Monster* by Walter Dean Myers.
- *Imani All Mine* by Connie Porter.
- *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret* by Judy Blume.
- *Does My Head Look Big in This?* by Randa Abdel-Fattah.
- *Seventeenth Summer* by Maureen Daly.
- *The Outsiders* by S. E. Hinton.
- "Am I Blue?" by Bruce Coville from *Am I Blue?* by Marion Dane Bauer
- "The Honorary Shepherds" by Gregory McGuire from *Am I Blue?*
- *Luna* by Julie Anne Peters.

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- "A Brief Moment in the Life of Angus Bethune," "The Pin," and "Goin' Fishin'" from *Athletic Shorts* by Chris Crutcher.
- *Gidget* by Frederik Kohner.
- *Shabanu: Daughter of the Wind* by Suzanne Fisher Staples.
- *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian* by Sherman Alexie.
- *Feed* by M. T. Anderson.
- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry.
- "Boobs" by Suzy McKee Charnas.
- *A Certain Slant of Light* by Laura Whitcomb.
- *My Friend Dahmer* by Derf Berkdorf.
- *American Born Chinese* by Gene Lee Yang.

Films

You are required to watch three films for the course. All can be viewed or rented from most movie rental and streaming websites or borrowed from your local library.

Precious. Dir. Lee Daniels. Lionsgate, 2009.

Mean Girls. Dir. Mark Waters. Paramount, 2004.

Back to the Future. Dir. Robert Zemeckis. Universal Pictures, 1985.

Television

You are required to watch one limited series for the course. The series is made up of eight 20 minute episodes and is only available for streaming on Netflix.

*The End of the F***ing World*. Netflix, 2017.

At the end of most lectures other books or films of interest are listed. These resources are for enrichment purposes and not required for the course.

Ordering Information

Please review the following tips for ordering your course materials:

1. Do not purchase your textbooks until your enrollment is approved. During the processing period, a new section may be opened that could require a different textbook or edition.
2. *Always order by the ISBN*. Publishers and vendors often offer the same textbook title under different ISBNs. You must have the correct ISBN to access your online website.
3. If you are having problems locating a textbook, contact us at Answers@outreach.lsu.edu for assistance.

Other Materials and Resources

Software: Microsoft Word, Web Browser, Adobe Flash Player, Adobe Shockwave Player, Adobe Acrobat Reader

Students must use a recent version of MS Word to write their answers to each module assignment.

Students must have access to a video source for viewing required films and television programs. The required films are available both in DVD and through a variety of streaming services. The required television show is currently only available through Netflix. Be aware that many local libraries offer free DVD and Blu-Ray borrowing for patrons.

It is recommended that you use Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome as your web browser. Internet Explorer is not compatible with your Moodle course site.

Adobe Flash and Adobe Shockwave player are required for online testing. Adobe Acrobat Reader is required to view PDF document files.

Hardware: *Web cam with a microphone (built-in or external), headphones or working speakers, and high speed internet*

Proctored exams are completed online and require the hardware listed above. Students are encouraged to review the technical requirements provided on the ProctorU website and to perform a test on their equipment prior to enrolling in this course to make sure they have the necessary resources available. There is a separate charge for each proctored exam.

Technical Requirements: <http://www.proctoru.com/tech.php>

Equipment Test: <http://www.proctoru.com/testitout/>

Nature and Purpose of the Course

Course Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

1. Define Young Adult fiction and its various subgenres.
2. Describe how Young Adult fiction helps young readers develop empathy for those who are different from themselves.
3. Explain how Young Adult fiction both reflects adolescence as it is commonly understood as well as influences how teens believe they should behave.

English 3223 Adolescent Literature is designed to give students an introduction to adolescent literature, otherwise known as Young Adult fiction or YA fiction. The teenage protagonists of YA fiction straddle two worlds. They have just left behind childhood, but they are not yet adults. Instead, they are engaged in developing adult senses of self and in understanding how they will fit into a world whose rules they are only now beginning to understand. In this way, most YA fiction can be viewed as a type of *Bildungsroman*, a type of story that follows an individual's growth to maturity. Because adolescent literature is concerned with growth, adolescent protagonists are always engaged in power struggles with individuals and institutions that also have a stake in forming their adult senses of self. For that reason, it is common for YA protagonists to be in conflict with their families, their schools, their churches, or even the criminal justice system in some instances. Finally, maturity for each protagonist is different. Some protagonists emerge from their struggles fairly certain of their adult identity, as is the case in Nancy Garden's *Annie on My Mind*, whereas others, such as Steve Harmon in *Monster*, are satisfied to wrest from others the ability to define themselves.

I have selected an eclectic mix of texts for English 3223 with an eye toward both introducing students to some of the genre's canonical texts, such as Robert Cormier's *The Chocolate War*, Nancy Garden's *Annie On My Mind*, and Alice Childress's *A Hero Ain't Nothin' but a Sandwich*, and also familiarizing them with the genre's various themes. I also wish to expand students' concept of YA fiction as not limited to the written word. To that end, I have also included several films in English 3223. In recent years, graphic novels such as Gene Luen Yang's *American Born Chinese* and Derf Backderf's *My Friend Dahmer* are also viewed as works of YA fiction.

Working with the Course Materials

Remember, this course covers an entire semester of work or the equivalent of a classroom course lasting 15 weeks. That means that each module in this course equals nearly a week of course work and will require the same time and effort on your part. *Do not expect to complete each module in a single study session. Understand, too, that if you choose to submit assignments at a very high pace, your instructor may not be able to grade your work at the same rate.*

Each module contains information, activities, and assignments organized under a consistent series of headings. Get familiar with how the module is organized. Each module in this course is organized into the following sections: the Module Learning Objectives, Reading Assignment, a graded Quiz, and the graded Module Assignment. You should work through these parts of the module in order. Specific recommendations are provided in a link to the course module instructions, which you should review before beginning the first module.

Carefully study the novels, short stories, and films, as well as the information in your lecture materials before you begin to prepare the module assignments. As you read the assigned novel or short story, or watch the assigned film, make notes. If you have time, you might want to view films twice, read short stories more than once, and at least skim the novel after your first reading of it. Examining the assigned text more than once will help you think more deeply

about it. After a module assignment has been completed, a rapid re-reading of the related text and other materials is strongly recommended to help you retain information for the mid-course and final exams.

Put yourself on a definite schedule. Set aside a certain block of hours per day or week for this course and work in a place where distractions are minimal. Try to submit a module assignment each week or at least every two weeks. Delays in submitting assignments usually result in lagging interest and the inability to complete the course.

Some of the films we are watching in this class have been remade. *Please make sure that you are always watching the version specified in the course materials, as the module is specific to that particular version.*

Suggested Study Techniques

1. Carefully review the module objectives to help you focus on the information that will be covered on the exams.
2. Concentrate on the reading assignments, the module lecture material, and any additional resources provided. This review should include a detailed examination of any illustrative problems and examples. After an assignment has been completed, a rapid re-reading of the related text and other materials is strongly recommended.
3. Put yourself on a definite schedule. Set aside a certain block of hours per day or week for this course and work in a place where distractions are minimal.
4. Try to submit one assignment each week or at least every two weeks. Delays in submitting assignments usually result in lagging interest and the inability to complete the course.
5. Review your module assignments after they have been graded, paying special attention to any instructor feedback provided. (We suggest that you wait for assignment feedback before you submit subsequent assignments.)
6. Regardless of how you complete your graded assignments, keep in mind that module completion should not be your sole preparation for your exams. As with any college course, you should study for your exams.

Reading Assignments

You will read an average of 435 pages per module. Specific reading assignments will be given in each module. However, do not be alarmed by this number: you will be surprised by how quickly you can complete a YA novel.

Topic Outline

This course covers the following specific topics:

Module	Topic
01	Young Adult Fiction--Introduction
02	The Problem Novel
03	The School Story
04	The Romance
05	Race
06	Spirituality
07	Masculinity and Femininity
08	Sexuality
	Mid-Course Examination
09	Sports Fiction
10	Multicultural Literature
11	Dystopian Fiction
12	Fantasy/Horror Fiction
13	Television Series
14	Graphic Novels
15	Film
	Final Examination

Module Assignments

Because ENGL 3223 Adolescent Literature is a junior-level course, all module assignments and exam responses should be written in clear, concise Standard English and virtually free of major errors in grammar and spelling. Work that is marred by awkward and wordy phrasing or mechanical errors will be docked depending on the frequency of the problems and how severely they interfere with the overall flow of the writing. Everything that you learned in freshman composition applies here.

Your module grade is made up of two parts, a module quiz and written module assignment. Each quiz is untimed and consists of 10 questions covering the module reading and viewing assignments. You are allowed three attempts on each quiz and the highest grade will be submitted to the gradebook.

Each module assignment requires that students answer between four and six essay questions (the number of questions varies from module to module). Each module assignment is given an individual grade, and then these grades are averaged to calculate the total module assignment grade.

Your responses to module assignments are to be essay answers, complete in themselves. One-sentence, or even one-paragraph answers, are inadequate and unacceptable. Unless otherwise specified, your responses to each question must be at least three well-developed paragraphs (or at least 300 words) in length. Remember that these responses are your opportunity to demonstrate to me that you have mastered the material in the module. Therefore, your responses should be thoroughly developed.

When responding to questions, begin by stating your thesis. Do not respond to the question as if the original question is in front of the reader. If, for example, you're asked to explain whether or not it was ultimately worth it for Jerry to disturb the universe in *The Chocolate War*, do not just answer "yes." Instead, begin your response with something like "Jerry was able to transform the lives of his fellow students at Trinity when he disturbed the universe by standing up to the Vigils."

Next, your thesis should be supported with evidence from the novel, short story, or film being discussed. Cite evidence, either in the form of direct quotations or paraphrase, to illustrate your observations, and explain how this evidence supports your assertions. Please note that when writing literary analysis (which is what you're doing in this class), you may assume that your reader is familiar with the text under discussion. Therefore, it is not necessary to quote or paraphrase material simply to inform the reader about events in the novel, short story, or film. Instead, material cited should be done so for the purpose of more closely examining it or for pointing out important information that your reader might have missed. However, you need to parenthetically cite in Modern Language Association (MLA) style any material you directly quote or paraphrase. Consult an MLA style handbook or use the MLA Citation Machine (<http://citationmachine.net/index.php?reqstyleid=1>) for assistance with making parenthetical citations.

Finally, be thorough in your analysis. Do not just cite a single example if more are to be found. Make a strong case. Your answers should demonstrate that you know what you are talking about, and that you have a thorough understanding of the novel, short story, or film.

You should submit each module assignment as soon as it is completed. Some courses have restrictions that require that a grade be received before you can submit additional assignments. Specific information on assignment submission is included in the Module Instructions. Please be sure to follow these instructions.

You must have a grade posted in the Moodle grade book for the Module 15 Assignment in order to unlock access to the Final Exam. Please allow at least 7 days for the final assignment grade to be posted in the gradebook.

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Once you *submit* an assignment, you cannot revise it, so be sure to check your work. Your instructor will normally post a grade for your assignment within *seven calendar days*. Understand that occasional delays will occur, such as during holidays and semester breaks or if you submit several module assignments within the same week. You must have been enrolled in the course for *at least three weeks*, regardless of when the modules and other exams are completed.

Do not rely too heavily on your textbook or other resource material when preparing your assignments. If you do, you may not realize until exam time that the perfect response you prepared for an assignment was only possible because you referred to resource material without really learning or understanding the material and concepts. Therefore, *you should attempt each assignment without referring to the resource material*, and if you find it necessary to look up an answer, be sure you have actually learned the concept and material rather than merely reflecting it in the answer.

Academic Integrity

Students in Online Distance Learning (ODL) courses must comply with the *LSU Code of Student Conduct*. Suspected violations of the academic integrity policy may be referred to LSU Student Advocacy & Accountability (SAA), a unit of the Dean of Students. If found responsible of a violation, you will then be subject to whatever penalty SAA determines and will forfeit all course tuition and fees.

Plagiarism

Students are responsible for completing and submitting their own course work and preparing their own modules. All work submitted in the course modules must be the student's own work unless outside work is appropriate to the assignment; all outside material must be properly acknowledged. It is also unacceptable to copy directly from your textbook or to use published answer keys or the teacher's edition of a textbook.

Collaboration

Unauthorized collaboration constitutes plagiarism. Collaborative efforts that extend beyond the limits approved by the instructor are violations of the academic integrity policy. Students who study together are expected to prepare and write their own individual work for submission and grading.

For more information and links to the *LSU Code of Student Conduct* and the SAA website, go to the [ODL Academic Integrity policy](#) on our website.

Examinations and Grading Policy

Your module activities are worth a total of 100 points. The module quizzes will be worth 10 points of your module grade, and the module assignment will be worth the remaining 90 points. Responses to assignments will be graded according to how well you support your assertions, as well as your ability to express yourself clearly. Awkward, wordy, and confusing sentences and excessive errors in spelling and grammar will lower your grade, so proofread your work carefully.

After you have completed Modules 01 through 08, you will take a proctored mid-course exam worth 100 points. The proctored final exam will be taken after you have completed all previous work in the course. The final exam is non-cumulative and will also be worth 100 points. Both exams will be made up of essay-style questions covering the themes and works studied throughout the course.

You will have a maximum of three hours to complete the exams. No textbooks, scratch paper, notes or other materials allowed.

You will have a maximum of *three* hours to complete the exam.

YOU MUST EARN A PASSING AVERAGE ON THE EXAMINATIONS IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE.

- Module assignments + quizzes count 100 points each.
- Exams are 100 points each.
- If you have a passing average on the exams, your course grade = average of module activities + exam scores.

The following grading scale applies:

97%–100%	=	A+
93%–96%	=	A
90%–92%	=	A-
87%–89%	=	B+
83%–86%	=	B
80%–82%	=	B-
77%–79%	=	C+
73%–76%	=	C
70%–72%	=	C-
67%–69%	=	D+
63%–66%	=	D
60%–62%	=	D-
0%–59%	=	F

IMPORTANT: The final exam cannot be taken until you meet the following requirements. Under no circumstances may the final exam be taken earlier.

1. You must have been enrolled in the course for *at least three weeks*, regardless of when the modules and other exams are completed.
2. You must have a *grade posted in the Moodle grade book for the **Module 15 Assignment** in order to unlock access to the Final Exam*. Please allow at least 7 days for the final assignment grade to be posted in the gradebook.

To read the full exam policy and other policy statements, visit <http://www.outreach.lsu.edu/Extended-Campus/Online-Distance-Learning/Guidelines-Policies/Policies>. Go to Continuing Education's homepage. Click on *Extended Campus*, select *Online Distance Learning*, and then click the link for *Guidelines and Policies*.

Taking Your Examinations

You are *required* to create a Louisiana State University ODL ProctorU account and to take your examinations through ProctorU, a remote proctoring service that allows you to take exams anywhere with internet access (some restrictions apply). Information on creating your ProctorU account can be found in the *Getting Started* module. You cannot use an account created through another university, so if you already have an account, you will still need to create an account associated with LSU Online Distance Learning (ODL).

The ProctorU website provides links you can use to find out how ProctorU works and to check your computer to see that it meets the technical requirements. In addition, to test using ProctorU, you need *access to a web cam with a microphone (built-in or external), headphones or working speakers, and high speed internet* to use this service. A complete list of technical requirements is available from the ProctorU website.

You should schedule your exams about a week before you are ready to take them in order to avoid any additional charges.

Transcript Information

After you have completed this course, your grade will be filed with the Office of the University Registrar. If a transcript is needed, it is your responsibility to make a request to the registrar. If you would like to order a transcript, visit the Office of the University Registrar Transcript Requests page to view your options (<http://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/registraroffice/student-services/transcript-request/>).

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