HU2548—Young Adult Literature
Fall 2015

Instructor Information
Instructor: Evelyn Johnson, MS Senior Lecturer
Office Location: Walker 339
E-mail: evjohnso@mtu.edu
Office Hours: Tuesday 11-12 and by appointment

Course Identification
Course Number: 83464-HU2548 R01
Course Name: Young Adult Literature
Course Location: Fisher Hall 0127
Class Times: MW 3:05-4:20
Prerequisites: None

Course Description/Overview
In this course, students read, reflect on, and respond to literature marketed for the young adult market. Works may include authors from a variety of races, cultures, historical periods, and genders. Discussion may be supplemented with films. Appropriate for students who plan to be parents, community volunteers, and teachers.

Course Learning Goals
HU2548 is a general education course. As such it is aligned with the following University Student Learning Goal:

Goal 4: Critical & creative thinking. Students will be able to think critically and creatively, as demonstrated by their broad, adaptable and versatile use of reasoning, logic, and evidence to access and evaluate information and solve complex problems both independently and in groups.

With the above as the aligning purpose, in this course, students will employ discussion, writing, reading, and viewing to accomplish these overarching goals
• Appreciate the historical significance of “adolescence” and the contemporary experiences of young adults
• Gain familiarity with a range of literary forms, styles, and subject matters.
• Identify major themes and other literary elements in the works studied;
• Practice asking (and answering) important questions about literary works;
• Build original interpretations of the works we read, through evidence-based analyses and creative imitations;
• Develop historical knowledge and understand the social context and significance of literary works.
• Compose carefully-crafted essays in response to literary works.
Course learning objectives:

• Understand the presence and role of empathy, resilience, and decision-making in novels specifically and in storytelling generally.
• Demonstrate in reflective writing and discussion understandings of how one’s own “story” and beliefs shape interpretations and frame choices.
• Analyze stories with critical references to theory (such as Maslow’s Hierarchy of Needs; Kohlberg’s theory of moral reasoning; Gilligan’s theory of women’s development; or other theories we will explore).
• Synthesize personal reactions, passages from the book, and theory or ideas from outside sources, properly integrating textual evidence to make or support claims.

• Identify and articulate in discussion and academic writing how conflicts characters confront can be explained from various points of view, for example, in terms of power and politics as we interrogate the concepts of free will and choice.
• Understand, discuss, and apply key stylistic and structural elements of fiction and narrative when composing original oral, written, and visual creative pieces—going beyond these conventions when possible.
• Work effectively in a group of peers to devise and use high quality discussion questions, to guide literary conversations.
• Use relevant terminology from the field of adolescent literature to discuss, critique, and recommend stories.
• Quote and paraphrase authors when writing scholarly essays, correctly citing the sources used.
• Use logic and established criteria to critique a case in which a book was challenged or banned.

Course Resources

Course Website: Canvas<http://www.courses.mtu.edu>

Required Course Texts (not in digital form):

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<tr>
<th>Satrapi, Marjane</th>
<th>Persepolis</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green, John</td>
<td>The Fault in Our Stars</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bacigalupi, Paolo</td>
<td>Shipbreaker</td>
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<tr>
<td>Zusak, Markus</td>
<td>The Book Thief</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rowell, Rainbow</td>
<td>Eleanor and Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alexi, Sherman</td>
<td>The Absolutely True Diary of a Part time Indian</td>
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Other readings (in digital form) will be assigned

Course Work

Literature Clubs: You will join a small group called a literature club to design questions for class discussion of an assigned text and facilitate class discussion one day.

Reading Response Essays: To be administered at the beginning of the class period, these short essays will emphasize comprehension and light analysis of that day’s reading assignment. I will give up to four reading responses over the course of the semester. Missed responses cannot be made up, but you may arrange to take them in advance if you will be missing class for a documented reason.
Two Creative Responses: In response to readings, I will ask you to write two short creative pieces of your own.

Mid-term literary essay: I’ll assign a comparative paper that asks you to compare and contrast qualities of at least two texts that help explain or answer a question or topic of your own invention (Learning Goal 4).

Final project: Write a short piece of fiction (one act play, short story, or other form) and include a reflective analysis of the creative piece.

Late work: I deduct points for late work. If you turn in an assignment two days late, the maximum you can possibly get on it is an A- (90%). Extensions and exceptions will be made in rare circumstances; please TALK TO ME if you foresee a problem completing your work on time.

Formatting: All work submitted for this class must be typed, double-spaced, in Times Roman 12-point font or an equivalent, with 1-inch margins on all sides and no extra spaces between lines or letters. (Make sure you’ve set up your word processing program according to these guidelines; do not just turn in your work in the default format of your word processing program).

Your papers and creative imitations should have original titles reflecting their content and aims.

Michigan Tech Multiliteracies Center (MTMC): It’s your responsibility to submit your work in as polished a state as possible. If you would like feedback on your work before the due date, please consider visiting the Multiliteracies Center. This free resource exists to help you with writing projects for any course on campus. For more information about the MTMC or to schedule an appointment, go to the MTMC website at http://www.mtu.edu/humanities/resources/mtmc/ or call (906) 487-2007. The MTMC is located in 107 Walker.

Attendance and Participation

Attendance and participation will be critical to your success in this course. If you must miss a class, you are responsible for obtaining notes from one of your classmates.

Two tardies of five minutes or more will count as an absence; leaving class more than 15 minutes early also counts as an absence.

If you are using your electronic devices for recreational purposes, working on non-course related projects, or texting during class I will count you as absent for the day. (If you have a personal emergency, let me know. Please also let me know if you use your phone as an e-reader).

Three absences will bring your overall grade down by half a letter; five will bring it down by a full letter; if you miss six or more class meetings, you will not pass this class.

Under some circumstances, with proper notification and documentation, an absence may be excused (see http://www.mtu.edu/dean/conduct/policy/attendance/ for guidelines).

Your level of engagement in the class affects your grade. I expect you to participate actively and thoughtfully in our class discussions. Consider this class a collective—your individual effort improves everyone’s experience (presumably).

• Always bring the readings to class! If you don’t have the materials necessary for the day’s work, I may ask you to leave (and mark you as absent for the day).
• Contribute actively to group and all-class discussions and work.
• I’d be happy to talk with you about ways to increase your involvement!

I will determine participation grades at the midterm and end of the semester, as follows:
• Meets attendance requirements; participates thoughtfully and respectfully in every class discussion
  ~150
• Meets attendance requirements; participates thoughtfully and respectfully in many class discussions:
  ~125
• Meets attendance requirements; occasionally participates or participates superficially: ~100
• Meets attendance requirements; rarely participates or participates without seeming to have completed
  the reading assignments: ~50

And so on…

**Grading Scheme (based on 1000 pts)**

Your semester grade in this course will be determined as follows:

- Reading quizzes (4) 200
- Creative responses (2) 200
- Midterm Literary Essay 250
- Final project 200
- Attendance & Participation 150

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Grade points/credit</th>
<th>Rating</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93% &amp; above</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>Excellent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AB</td>
<td>87% – 92%</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>Very good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>82% – 86%</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BC</td>
<td>76% – 81%</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>Above average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70% – 75%</td>
<td>2.00</td>
<td>Average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CD</td>
<td>65% – 69%</td>
<td>1.50</td>
<td>Below average</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60% - 64%</td>
<td>1.00</td>
<td>Inferior</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59% and below</td>
<td>0.00</td>
<td>Failure</td>
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<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Incomplete; given only when a student is unable to complete a segment of the course because of circumstances beyond the student’s control.</td>
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<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Conditional, with no grade points per credit; given only when the student is at fault in failing to complete a minor segment of a course, but in the judgment of the instructor does not need to repeat the course. It must be made up by the close of the next semester or the grade becomes a failure (F). A (X) grade is computed into the grade point average as a (F) grade.</td>
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**University Policies**

**Academic integrity:**
Academic integrity and honesty are central components of a student's education, and ethical conduct fostered in an academic context will be carried into a student's professional career. Academic integrity is
essential in a community of scholars searching and learning to search for truth. Anything less than total commitment to integrity undermines the efforts of the academic community. Both students and faculty are responsible for insuring the academic integrity of the University.

This policy applies to the academic conduct of all persons at Michigan Technological University who have ever matriculated at the University, whether or not the person is enrolled at the time an allegation of academic misconduct is made.

This policy addresses academic misconduct in course work. Allegations of misconduct in research or publication are addressed under the Misconduct in Research, Scholarly and Creative Endeavors (http://www.mtu.edu/research/administration/integrity-compliance/pdf/Misconduct_in_Research_Scholarly_Creative_Endeavors_Policy.pdf) and its associated procedures (http://www.mtu.edu/research/administration/integrity-compliance/pdf/Misconduct_Procedures.pdf).

Of these policies, the university’s position on plagiarism is most relevant to HU 2501. Plagiarism or other appropriation of the work of another individual and presenting it as if it were one's own or without credit to the originator as is required by commonly accepted practices in the community of one’s discipline; plagiarism also includes self plagiarism, for example excerpting or reusing papers written for another class.

**Student disability services:**
Michigan Tech complies with all federal and state laws and regulations regarding discrimination, including the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. For more information about reasonable accommodation for or equal access to education or services at Michigan Tech, please call the Dean of Students Office, at (906) 487-2212 or go to http://www.mtu.edu/dean/disability/policies/

**Assessment:**
Student work products (exams, essays, projects, etc.) may be used for purposes of university, program, or course assessment—the institution’s efforts to evaluate the effectiveness of its programming. All work used for assessment purposes will not include any individual student identification.