

Literature for Young Adults  
LIBS 121 2010  
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I. Course number and title: **LIBS 121, Literature for Young Adults.**

II. Prerequisite: None.

III. Course Description: This course is a critical study of literature for adolescents. Included are classical works as well as contemporary writings for the intermediate and secondary school age levels. Programming for young adults serve as a focal point for evaluation and analysis of materials.

IV. **Text:** Nilsen, Alleen Pace and Kenneth L. Donelson. Literature for Today's Young Adults. 8<sup>th</sup> ed. c2009.

Wood, Chip. Yardsticks: children in the classroom ages 4-14. 3<sup>rd</sup> ed.

C2007. Read and use pages 131-181.

**V. Behavioral Objectives:**

A. To build an understanding of the adolescent's world and how that world effects young adult reading and media interests, and the development of library collections and services for young adults.

B. Applying principles of effective individual and group communication skills in working with young adults or persons serving the young adult population

C. Analyze and evaluate materials, primarily books, for young adults in terms of :

1. selection criteria for particular forms, or genre,
2. development of adult and young adult literature,
3. interest and appeal to young adults,
4. use in school and/or public library,
5. issues raised by form, subject or theme.

D. Identify and utilize basic tools for selecting and sharing books

and other materials with young adults.

E. Identify issues surrounding censorship of young adult materials.

**Goals:**

1. students will become familiar with the different genres of young adult literature and how to evaluate them.
2. is that students will be able to select appropriate materials for a particular youth, based on their knowledge of the student, (age, reading level, level of maturity) and age appropriateness of the material.
3. That students will be able to use accepted marketing techniques, such as, storytelling and book talks, to market books and other young adult material to students.

**VI. Reading as required**

**VII. Other Assignments:**

A. Present a book talk. Talk must not exceed 20 minutes and

may include multimedia. It should include at least 3 books and be arranged around a theme. Fiction and nonfiction should be included. The book talk will account for 20% of your grade.

B. Review and present: Review any 5 films, videos, TV programs, or computer games that have high teenage appeal. These should include about an hour of MTV, VH1, or another music video program. These reviews should not exceed 300 words and must be directed at a professional audience. These reviews will account for 10% of your grade

C. Interview anyone between the ages of 13 and 18 who is not a relative. Ask them about their interests, reading habits, hobbies, school, family, work, future goals, etc. This written and oral report will account for 15% of your grade.

D. Card file or computer program. Complete a card file of 40 books you have read for this course including those assigned for class discussion and those you use for your book talk. The file should include complete bibliographic data for all 40 titles. Five titles must be fully annotated with a brief summary of the book and a short literary critique of the work's quality. The card file will account for 25% of your grade.

E. Review and present: In groups of 3 or 4, review a year's subscription from one reviewing journal of young adult material. Include a summary of the review policy, average number of reviews per issue, formats reviewed, and quality of reviews. This will account for 10% of your grade.

F. Using the young adult profiles in *Yardsticks* as a guide create annotated bibliography of five books per each student profile ages 11, 12, 13, and 14. Choose two books which you feel will appeal to boys and two books which will appeal to girls and one title which you will have a general appeal to both sexes. This bibliography is worth 10% of your grade.

G. Reading the assigned textbook chapters and handouts.

H. Attendance is important and more than two unexcused absences will result in a grade reduction.

I. If you have a disability which makes performing any of the assignments difficult or impossible please inform the instructor so accommodations can be made.

**VII. Examinations:** None

**IX. Detailed Course Outline:**

Session #1: Introduction and background. Who is the adolescent?

Aug: 26 For next week read: The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Twain

This is a long book and I don't expect you will finish it but

read sections in the book for its flavor and themes.

Session #2: A basis for comparison. Video presentation.

Sept. 2 Assigned reading: Chapters 1, 2, and 3 in the textbook.

Session #3: Families: Who are they? How do they live?

Sept. 9 Assigned reading: Ordinary People by Guest.

Waiting for Normal by L. Connor.

Session #4: Peer Pressure: How can anyone resist? The new realism.

Sept. 9 Assigned reading: Chapter 4 in the text.

The Chocolate War. Cormier. The Outsiders, Hinton

Session #5: Sex and sexuality: Share 1 film, or video review in class.

Sept. 16 Assigned reading. Forever, by Blume; and either of the next

two titles: Speak by Laurie H. Anderson or

Compare and Contrast the Book and the Movie.

We will watch the made for television movie of Speak

prepared by having read the book for this session.

Session #6: Presentation of Young Adult interviews in class.

Sept. 23 How to push books. Storytelling and YA book talking.

Assigned Reading: Chapter 10. Video Presentation.

Session #7. Heroes and Role Models. Are they the same?

Sept. 30 Assigned reading: The Boy's War, Murphy

After the First Death, Cormier.

Session#8 Discussion of film, music, video, television, and computer

Oct . 7 games. Share remaining video reviews with class.

Book talk demonstration by the instructor.

Time to work on selection reports will be given groups.

Session#9 Discussion of Biography. and Short Story.

Oct.14 Assigned reading Sixteen: Short Stories by Outstanding

Writers for Young Adults, or On the Fringe compiled by Don Gallo.

Read "The Caballero's Way". O. Henry.

Session #10 Informational Needs. Selection

Oct. 21 Presentation of joint selection reports.

Assigned reading: Examine 3 or 4 of the "Eyewitness"

books. Read first two chapter of The Hot Zone by Preston.

Session # 11: Information needs continued. School curriculum as a

Oct. 28 buying guide. Poetry

Assigned reading: Look at and experience any four nonfiction titles in the areas of drugs, health, sexuality, careers, science, history, or reference. Bring 4 to share in class. Your annotated bibliography is due tonight.

Session # 13: Another time, another world: Fantasy and Science Fiction.

Nov. 4 Assigned reading: Chapter 6. Read Hunger Games by S. Collins.

Nov. 11 School closed for Veteran's Day

Session #14: Special books " Mass Markets" Read Firestarter by S. King.

Nov. 18 or any J.K. Rowling Harry Potter or any of the Twilight series by S. Meyers.

Nov. 26 No class school closed for Thanksgiving.

Session #15: Censorship. Read any 3 current articles to share and read Chapter 12.

Dec. 2 What's the hot item or items this year?

Read Silent to the Bone by E.L. Konigsburg and The Angel Experiment by James Patterson.

Session #16: Graphic Novels. Ready any suitable graphic novel and bring it in to share. If you are unfamiliar with graphic novels take a trip to Sarge's Comics in New London. <sup>i</sup>

Session #17: Ebooks, audio books, playaways , and web sources. Look at how the web has changed library service to younger patrons.