Purpose and Objectives

Catalog description: The focus of this course is the evaluation and selection of materials and techniques for providing reading guidance to adolescents in school library media centers and public libraries. Emphasis is on contemporary literature suited to the personal and recreational needs and interests of young people. We will also examine the place and context of reading in the age of information overload, as it applies to some (vague) definitions of the “new literacy.”

The purpose of this class is to provide exposure to the variety of literature and media available to young adults ages 12 –18 and to consider that material in relation to the educational, developmental, informational, and recreational needs of this audience. My hope is that you become familiar with the range of materials available, will become enthusiastic supporters of it, and will be able to talk about it to both YAs and other adults in a knowledgeable manner. That said, this course is above all a celebration, if you will, of the book and of reading, of their places (or lack of a place?) in young adults’ lives. Thus, this course, compared to other graduate courses you have had thus far, will contain less written work. In place of this, you’re expected to engage on two main fronts: the books themselves and the issues and topics concerning young adults and media today (see topics below). Put another way, this course primarily relies on reading. We will consider several questions:

- How do librarians and educators best select material to meet YA needs?
- What are significant issues and trends pertinent to this selection and use?
- How do we promote this material with young adults and other professionals, e.g, faculty colleagues or parents?
- What is the place of reading and of the book in the age of information overload, of an apparent lack of time among teenagers?

Course objectives
Upon successfully completing this course, participants will be able to:

- Discuss the value and characteristics of major genres and identify representative titles and authors of each
- Identify important user characteristics and information needs of young adults
- Use a variety of methods to promote interest in and use of this material
Critical and thoughtfully examine current issues and trends, issues, and topics related to young adults and reading, and speak to other adults about these issues in a reasoned and professional manner.

- Use relevant professional materials for selection, reading guidance, and your own continuing education in this field.

**Grading – Summary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Booktalk / Banned Book</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Media Issues Symposium</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final Paper (final exam)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A Reading Life, Part 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>A Reading Life, Part 11</td>
<td>15%</td>
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**Textbooks and Reading**

**Required reading:** You will be reading and examining approximately 21 books, selected from various sources, which are representative of different genres or authors. All or many of these should be available in your local public library and some school libraries. Note that some of these books may be located in the adult rather than the YA section.

**Class Meeting Schedule**

**January 16**

Syllabus hand out, course goals, objectives, introduction(s)

Media Topic: A Reading Life / My High School Library

**January 23**

Paper Assignment Due: Confessions of a Reader, Part 1

*The Outsiders*, S.E. Hinton

*Primal Teen: What the New Discoveries about the Teenage Brain Tell Us About our Kids*, Barbara Strauch

Booktalk
Media Topic: The NEA Reports: “Reading at Risk” ; “To Read or not to Read”

January 30

_The Pigman_, Paul Zindel  
_Amusing Ourselves to Death_, Neil Postman

Booktalk

Media Topic: Multitasking Generation

February 6

_Whale Talk_, Chris Crutcher  
_The Chocolate War_, Robert Cormier

Booktalk

Media Topic: Kaiser Family Foundation Study

February 13

_Geeks: How Two Boys Rode the Internet out of Idaho_, Jon Katz  
_The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants_, Ann Brashares

Booktalk

Media Topic: American Association of School Librarians / YALSA

February 20

_True Notebooks_, Marc Salzman  
_Make Lemonade_, Virginia Wolff

Booktalk

Media Topic: English Teachers
February 27

*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, Maya Angelou
*Hatchet*, Gary Paulsen

Booktalk

Media Topic: Periodicals and Newspapers

March 12

*Rules of the Road*, Joan Bauer
*Holes*, Louis Sachar

Booktalk

Media Topic: Outstanding Books for the College Bound / YALSA

March 19

No Class
Assignments tbd

March 26

No Class
Assignments tbd

April 2

*The Radioactive Boy Scout*, Ken Silverstein
*Be More Chill*, Ned Vizzini

Booktalk

Media Topic: Media and Information Literacy

April 9

*Whirligig*, Paul Fleischmann
*I am the Messenger*, Markus Zusak
Booktalk

Media Topic: Teens and the Public Library

April 16

*Haters*, Alisa Valdes Rodriguez
*The Nature of Jade*, Deb Caletti

Booktalk

Media Topic: Teens and the School Library

April 23

*Fast Food Nation*, Eric Schlosser

Booktalk

Media Topics: Media and Technology

Assignments


Each of you will give a 5-minute book talk from the list of banned / challenged books provided below. In addition to the standard format of presenting a book to a young adult reading audience, e.g., discussing its core appeal, relevance, subject matter, you will provide a brief summary of why the book was (or is challenged) and then tell us, as a prospective (or current) librarian, what your decision would be regarding the book's place within your collection development scheme, i.e., would you the book in your collection or not?

**Issues in Media for Adolescents (Individual Assignments)**

You will choose one of the issues outlined in the syllabus / schedule and provide a 50-minute presentation on its connection with media for adolescents. You can use any presentation format you wish—handouts, multimedia, PowerPoint—so long as you follow the basic journalistic guidelines: Who, What, When, Where, How, and Why? I will provide further details about this assignment during the first class meeting, when you will also choose your topic.

**Confessions of a Reader Part 1/ Part 11**
The first section of this two-part assignment (3 pages each) is designed for you to reflect, analyze, and report on your reading. The second section encourages you to reflect on changes and attitudes as a reader and a prospective librarian, given the varied discussions and issues raised over the semester. We will discuss the components of this paper during the first class meeting.

My Media Center / Library for Young Adults

This final project, 10-15 pages in length, takes the place of a final exam. Using the same journalistic tools (who, what, when, where, why, how), you will choose a library setting,—public school, private school, or public library—and report on its components. For example, how many computers are there and why? What are the reading habits and interests of your patrons? Is there a collection development policy? How is the library managed? What are its general policies? More details will follow on this assignment as we move into the semester.

Required reading:

*The Outsiders*, S.E. Hinton

*Primal Teen: What the New Discoveries about the Teenage Brain Tell Us About our Kids*, Barbara Strauch

*The Pigman*, Paul Zindel

*Amusing Ourselves to Death*, Neil Postman

*Whale Talk*, Chris Crutcher

*The Chocolate War*, Robert Cormier

*Geeks: How Two Boys Rode the Internet out of Idaho*, Jon Katz

*The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*, Ann Brashares

*True Notebooks*, Marc Salzman

*Make Lemonade*, Virginia Wolff

*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*, Maya Angelou

*Hatchet*, Gary Paulsen

*Rules of the Road*, Joan Bauer
Holes, Louis Sachar

The Radioactive Boy Scout

Be More Chill, Ned Vizzini

Whirligig, Paul Fleischmann

I am the Messenger, Markus Zusak

Haters, Alisa Valdes Rodriguez

The Nature of Jade, Deb Caletti

Fast Food Nation, Eric Schlosser

Grading Scale

A      95-100
A-     90-94
B+     86-89
B      83-85
B-     79-82
C+     75-78
C      71-74
C-     68-70

Academic Ethics: You'll find Academic Affairs policies on “Academic Dishonesty" and on "Unethical Practices" in the University Policies and Procedures web page at http://policies.cua.edu/. You are responsible for adhering to these policies. Incidences of academic dishonesty, defined by the University as “failure to observe rules of fairness in taking exams or writing papers, plagiarism, fabrication, and cheating" will result in a grade of F (0 points) on the project or exam in question, and will be reported to the Dean for possible further action (including failure in the course and/or dismissal from the academic program). Talk with me if you have questions about what is involved in such offenses. Plagiarism, which includes "[1] intentionally or knowingly representing the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise; [2] failure to attribute any of the following: quotations, paraphrases, or borrowed information from print sources or websites; [3] buying completed papers from others to use as one's own work", will not be tolerated. For more on what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it, see the guide on the Purdue Online Writing Lab web site at http://owl.english.purdue.edu/handouts/research/r_plagiar.html.

ADA Accommodation: I will gladly make accommodations for students who have approved documentation. You will need to present a written accommodation request to me by the end of the second week of class. This can be done by email. If you do need accommodation, go ahead
The 100 Most Frequently Challenged Books of 1990-2000

1. Scary Stories (Series) by Alvin Schwartz
2. Daddy's Roommate by Michael Willhoite
3. I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou
4. The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier
5. The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain
6. Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck
7. Harry Potter (Series) by J.K. Rowling
8. Forever by Judy Blume
9. Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson
10. Alice (Series) by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor
11. Heather Has Two Mommies by Leslea Newman
12. My Brother Sam is Dead by James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier
13. The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger
14. The Giver by Lois Lowry
15. It's Perfectly Normal by Robie Harris
16. Goosebumps (Series) by R.L. Stine
17. A Day No Pigs Would Die by Robert Newton Peck
18. The Color Purple by Alice Walker
19. Sex by Madonna
20. Earth's Children (Series) by Jean M. Auel
21. The Great Gilly Hopkins by Katherine Paterson
22. A Wrinkle in Time by Madeleine L'Engle
23. Go Ask Alice by Anonymous
24. Fallen Angels by Walter Dean Myers
25. In the Night Kitchen by Maurice Sendak
26. The Stupids (Series) by Harry Allard
27. The Witches by Roald Dahl
28. The New Joy of Gay Sex by Charles Silverstein
29. Anastasia Krupnik (Series) by Lois Lowry
30. The Goats by Brock Cole
31. Kaffir Boy by Mark Mathabane
32. Blubber by Judy Blume
33. Killing Mr. Griffin by Lois Duncan
34. Halloween ABC by Eve Merriam
35. We All Fall Down by Robert Cormier
36. Final Exit by Derek Humphry
37. The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
38. Julie of the Wolves by Jean Craighead George
39. The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison
41. To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
42. Beloved by Toni Morrison
43. The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton
44. The Pigman by Paul Zindel
45. Bumps in the Night by Harry Allard
46. Deenie by Judy Blume
47. Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes
48. Annie on my Mind by Nancy Garden
49. The Boy Who Lost His Face by Louis Sachar
50. Cross Your Fingers, Spit in Your Hat by Alvin Schwartz
51. A Light in the Attic by Shel Silverstein
52. Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
53. Sleeping Beauty Trilogy by A.N. Roquelaure (Anne Rice)
54. Asking About Sex and Growing Up by Joanna Cole
55. Cujo by Stephen King
56. James and the Giant Peach by Roald Dahl
57. The Anarchist Cookbook by William Powell
58. Boys and Sex by Wardell Pomeroy
59. Ordinary People by Judith Guest
60. American Psycho by Bret Easton Ellis
62. Are You There, God? It’s Me, Margaret by Judy Blume
63. Crazy Lady by Jane Conly
64. Athletic Shorts by Chris Crutcher
65. Fade by Robert Cormier
66. Guess What? by Mem Fox
67. The House of Spirits by Isabel Allende
68. The Face on the Milk Carton by Caroline Cooney
69. Slaughterhouse-Five by Kurt Vonnegut
70. Lord of the Flies by William Golding
71. Native Son by Richard Wright
72. Women on Top: How Real Life Has Changed Women’s Fantasies by Nancy Friday
73. Curses, Hexes and Spells by Daniel Cohen
74. Jack by A.M. Homes
75. Bless Me, Ultima by Rudolfo A. Anaya
76. Where Did I Come From? by Peter Mayle
77. Carrie by Stephen King
78. Tiger Eyes by Judy Blume
79. On My Honor by Marion Dane Bauer
80. Arizona Kid by Ron Koertge
81. Family Secrets by Norma Klein
82. Mommy Laid An Egg by Babette Cole
83. The Dead Zone by Stephen King
84. The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain
85. Song of Solomon by Toni Morrison
86. Always Running by Luis Rodriguez
87. Private Parts by Howard Stern
88. Where’s Waldo? by Martin Hanford
89. Summer of My German Soldier by Bette Greene
90. Little Black Sambo by Helen Bannerman
91. Pillars of the Earth by Ken Follett
92. Running Loose by Chris Crutcher
93. Sex Education by Jenny Davis
94. The Drowning of Stephen Jones by Bette Greene
95. Girls and Sex by Wardell Pomeroy
96. How to Eat Fried Worms by Thomas Rockwell
97. View from the Cherry Tree by Willo Davis Roberts
98. The Headless Cupid by Zilpha Keatley Snyder
99. The Terrorist by Caroline Cooney
100. Jump Ship to Freedom by James Lincoln Collier and Christopher Collier

Please Note: The Instructor reserves the right to adjust or revise the syllabus at any time during the course of the semester.