

Course Description

The undergraduate catalog describes ENGL 405 as “a survey of fiction for adolescents with special attention to literary theories that assist its interpretation,” which broadly describes what we will be covering in this course. We’ll also discuss the history of young-adult (YA) literature, and examine the ways in which authors, teachers, and critics imagine such literature functions.

As a writing intensive (“W”) course, this class requires a significant amount of written work: 20 pages of polished writing, total, by the end of the semester, in addition to drafts and informal writing assignments. We will do peer responding to these drafts in class, and you are always welcome to bring drafts to me to discuss as you revise them. Since this is a 400-level class, I will expect you to demonstrate your understanding of course content by incorporating research beyond the required course readings into your final project. We’ll talk about all of this more as the course gets underway.

Contact Information

Prof. Rosemary V. Hathaway

Office: 215 Colson Hall

Phone: 304/293-9738

E-mail: rosemary.hathaway@mail.wvu.edu

Office Hours: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays 10:30 a.m. – Noon, and by appointment

Social Justice Statement

The West Virginia University community is committed to creating and fostering a positive learning and working environment based on open communication, mutual respect, and inclusion.

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of accommodation in order to participate in this class, please advise me and make appropriate arrangements with the Office of Accessibility Services (304/293-6700). For more information on West Virginia University’s Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiatives, please see <http://diversity.wvu.edu/>. And of course, please talk with me about how we can work together most effectively.

Texts

Albertalli, Becky. *Simon vs. The Homo Sapiens Agenda* (ISBN 9780062348685)

*Alexander, Kwame. *The Crossover* (ISBN 9780544107717)

Alexie, Sherman. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* (ISBN 9780316013697)

Dooley, Sarah. *Free Verse* (ISBN 9780399165030)

**Hutchinson, Shaun David. *We Are the Ants* (ISBN 9781481449632)

Meyers, Walter Dean. *Fallen Angels* (ISBN 9780545055765)

**Ruby, Laura. *Bone Gap* (ISBN 9780062317629)

*Woodson, Jacqueline. *Brown Girl Dreaming* (ISBN 9780147515827)

Zusak, Markus. *The Book Thief* (ISBN 9780375842207)

* Choose *either* Alexander *or* Woodson for literature circle #1

**Choose *either* Hutchinson *or* Ruby for literature circle #2

Policies and Procedures

It should go without saying, but ***please turn off cell phones and put them away during class***. If you're expecting an important call, please set your phone to vibrate and take the call in the hallway.

Attendance—Since most of the learning in this course will happen via class discussion, I expect you to attend every class. I trust that you'll check in if you've missed class to find out what you've missed, and that you will get notes from another class member. Missed in-class work must be made up before the next class meeting—no exceptions.

Late arrivals—We will start class on time, so please plan to be here on time. Late arrivals are really disruptive, and if chronic lateness becomes a problem, it will affect your final grade.

Leaving early—Please let me know before class begins if you need to leave early, and what time you will need to leave. I'd also appreciate it if you'd sit close to the door so that you can slip out unobtrusively.

End of class—The end of class is devoted to summarizing material or making announcements, so please refrain from packing up so that you don't miss anything or distract others. I know some professors have a bad habit of going over the scheduled ending time for their classes—I had a few of them myself—but I do keep track of the time and promise to always let you out at the class' scheduled ending time.

Inclement weather—It wouldn't be "spring" semester without the threat of bad weather and roads. Obviously, if the University is closed, we won't meet. But if you're personally unable to get to campus due to road conditions, please let me know in advance. And I'll notify you by e-mail ASAP if I decide to cancel class due to weather.

Course Requirements

Detailed information about the following assignments will be provided separately. Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Paper 1 (reading autobiography)	15%
Goodreads responses for 5 books	25%
Project proposal	5%
Annotated bibliography	10%
Final project (10-12 pages)	20%
Drafts of paper 1, annotated bibliography, and final project	10%
In-class writing assignments (including literature-circle work, sample annotated bib entry, conference on final project, and other assignments)	15%

Grades

Most assignments will be graded on a 100-point scale, with 90-100 being an A, 80 to 89 a B, 70 to 79 a C, 60 to 69 a D, and anything below 60 an F. Shorter assignments will be graded on a 5- or 10-point scale, or (in some cases) just with a checkmark to indicate completion.

Late Papers/Assignments and Extensions

All assignments are due in class, at the beginning of class, on the day they are due. Papers submitted after class on the day they're due, or put in my mailbox instead of submitted in class, will have 5 pts. deducted from the paper's final score. Papers turned in in any form after class will lose 5 pts. per day. (So, a paper turned in after class on the day it's due will lose 5 pts., a paper turned in the following day will lose 10 pts., and so on.)

PLEASE NOTE: I'm generally willing to grant extensions, but **you must talk to me first and submit a written extension request to me before the assignment is due.** I will ask you to set your own revised due date, subject to my approval, and you will be held to that due date.

Academic Integrity

My policy regarding plagiarism is zero tolerance: plagiarize even one part of one assignment, and fail the entire course. Period. If I can document the plagiarism, I will also file paperwork to report the incident. However, I am committed to helping you learn how to cite and document sources correctly, so please feel free to ask questions when they come up.

The following definitions are from the *West Virginia University Undergraduate Catalog*. Please see the catalog's section on Academic Integrity/Dishonesty for the full definition and discussion of procedures.

Plagiarism. "Submitting, without appropriate acknowledgment . . . material that has been knowingly obtained or copied in whole or in part, from the work of others, whether such source is published or not, including (but not limited to) another individual's academic composition, compilation, or other product, or commercially prepared paper."

Cheating. "Doing academic work for another student, or providing one's own work for another student to copy and submit as his/her own."



*DAY-TO-DAY SCHEDULE***WEEK ONE**

- M Jan 9 Introduction to course
- W 11 READ: eCampus , Chapter 5 of Donalyn Miller's *The Book Whisperer*
- F 13 READ: eCampus, editorials about "dark" YA literature by Gurdon and Alexie
IN CLASS: Discussion about the marketing, audience, and functions of YA lit and introduction to paper 1

WEEK TWO

- M 16 No class meeting—Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday
- W 18 READ: Alexie's *Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, pp. 1-81 (to "Slouching Toward Thanksgiving")
- F 20 READ: *Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, pp. 82-168 (to "Valentine Heart")

WEEK THREE

- M 23 READ: *Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, pp. 169-end
- W 25 READ: eCampus, articles on challenged books
IN CLASS: Finish discussion of Alexie and connect to articles for today
- F 27 **DUE: Draft of paper 1**
IN CLASS: Feedback session on drafts

WEEK FOUR

- M 30 READ: *Free Verse*, chapters 1-12
DUE: Paper 1
- W Feb 1 READ: *Free Verse*, chapters 13-25
- F 3 READ: *Free Verse*, parts 3-4 (pp. 229-end)

WEEK FIVE

- M 6 READ: eCampus, articles on the Vietnam War and literature
- W 8 Myers' *Fallen Angels*, pp. 3-107
- F 10 READ: *Fallen Angels*, pp. 108-217

WEEK SIX

- M 13 READ: *Fallen Angels*, pp. 218-end
IN CLASS: Finish discussion of *Fallen Angels*
- W 15 IN CLASS: Discussion of final project: proposal, research process, annotated bibliography, and final project
- F 17 IN CLASS: Library Day #1—meet in Room 2036 on the 2nd floor of the Wise Library—bring a laptop/tablet or check one out at the front desk to use

WEEK SEVEN

- M 20 READ: Zusak, *The Book Thief*, parts 1 and 2 (through p. 122)
- W 22 READ: *The Book Thief*, parts 3 and 4 (through p. 238)
- F 24 READ: *The Book Thief*, parts 5-7 (through p. 403)

WEEK EIGHT

- M 27 READ: Finish *The Book Thief*
- W Mar 1 READ: eCampus articles about YA Holocaust literature
IN CLASS: Wrapup discussion of *The Book Thief* and other YA novels about the Holocaust
- F 3 **DUE: Project Proposal**

SPRING BREAK, MARCH 6-10**WEEK NINE**

- M 13 READ: eCampus articles about trends in LGBTQ YA literature
- W 15 READ: Albertalli's *Simon vs the Homo Sapiens Agenda*, chapters 1-9
- F 17 READ: *Simon*, chapters 10-23

WEEK TEN

- M 20 IN CLASS: Library Day #2—meet in Room 2036 on the 2nd floor of the Wise Library—bring a laptop/tablet or check one out at the front desk to use
DUE AT END OF CLASS: Sample annotated bibliography entry
- W 22 IN CLASS: Followup to library session with sample annotated bib entries
- F 24 READ: *Simon*, chapters 24-end
IN CLASS: Finish discussion of *Simon*; organizational meeting for lit-circle 1: Novels-in-poetry

WEEK ELEVEN

- M 27 Lit circle 1: Novels-in-verse
- W 29 Lit circle 1: Novels-in-verse
- F 31 Lit circle one reports

WEEK TWELVE

- M Apr 3 **DUE: Draft of annotated bibliography**
IN CLASS: Responding session on drafts and annotated bib workshop; organizational meeting for lit-circle 2
- W 5 Lit-circle 2: Strange disappearances
- F 7 Lit-circle 2: Strange disappearances
DUE: Annotated bibliography

WEEK THIRTEEN

- M 10 Lit-circle 2: Strange disappearances
- W 12 Lit-circle 2 reports
- F 14 No class meeting—Easter recess

WEEK FOURTEEN

- M 17 **DUE: Draft of final project**
IN CLASS: Responding session on drafts and workshop
- W 19 IN CLASS: Writing workshop and Q&A about final project and end-of-semester happenings
- F 21 No class meeting—Benedum Inquiry Conference

WEEK FIFTEEN—INDIVIDUAL CONFERENCES ON FINAL PROJECTS**FINALS WEEK**

- W May 3 **Final projects must be turned in, either given to me in my office (215 Colson Hall) or put in my mailbox (100 Colson Hall), by 5 p.m.**