

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 materials into your final project. We’ll discuss all of this more as the course gets underway.

Contact Information

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Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 11:45 a.m. – 1:45 p.m., and by appointment

Social Justice Statement

West Virginia University is committed to social justice. I concur with that commitment and expect to maintain a positive learning environment based upon open communication, mutual respect, and non-discrimination. Our University does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, disability, veterans status, religion, sexual orientation, color or national origin. Any suggestions as to how to further such a positive and open environment in this class will be appreciated and given serious consideration.

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 Disability Services, G-30 Mountainlair (phone: 304/293-6700; voice/TDD: 304/293-7740; e-mail: access2@mail.wvu.edu). And of course, feel free to talk with me about how we can work together most effectively.

Texts

Alexie, Sherman. *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* (ISBN 0316013692)

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Speak* (ISBN 0312674392)

Bray, Libba. *Beauty Queens* (ISBN 0439895979)

Green, John and David Levithan. *Will Grayson, Will Grayson* (ISBN 9780142418475)

Myers, Walter Dean. *Fallen Angels* (ISBN 0545055768)

Roth, Veronica. *Divergent* (ISBN 9780062024039)

Satrapi, Marjane. *Persepolis*. (ISBN 9780375714573)

Stork, Francisco X. *Marcelo in the Real World* (ISBN 9780545056908)

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. In this situation, 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 usually devoted to summarizing material or making announcements, so please refrain from packing up books, etc., so that you don't miss anything yourself or distract others. I know that some professors have a bad habit of going way over the scheduled ending time for their classes (I had some of them myself)—but I do keep track of the time and promise to always let you out at the class' scheduled ending time.

Course Requirements

To pass the class, you must complete all major assignments—papers 1 and 2, the annotated bibliography (including the preliminary research report), and the final project. Detailed instructions about each of these assignments will be provided separately. Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

Paper 1 (reading autobiography)	15%
Class blog	15%
Project proposal	5%
Contributions to research wiki	5%
Annotated bibliography	10%
Final project (10-12 pages)	25%
Drafts of paper 1, annotated bib, and the final project	10%
Discussion questions	5%
In-class writing assignments	10%

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 by e-mail or put in my mailbox instead of submitted in class will have 5 pts. deducted from the paper's final score, and papers turned in in any form after class will lose 5 pts. per day. (So, a paper turned in on the day it is due but after class 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

- T Aug 21 Introduction to course
 R 23 READ: *The Book Whisperer*, pp. 1-37 (available as a PDF on eCampus)

WEEK TWO

- T 28 READ: *The Book Whisperer*, Chapter 5 (available as a PDF on eCampus)
 IN CLASS: Discussion of papers 1 & 2
 R 30 READ: Anderson's *Speak*, pp. 3-102 (to section titled "Stunted")

WEEK THREE

- T Sep 4 READ: Anderson's *Speak*, pp. 102-end
 R 6 READ: Articles on eCampus TBA
 IN CLASS: Discussion of "dark" YA lit and introduction to the research process

WEEK FOUR

- T 11 DUE: Draft of paper 1
 IN CLASS: Workshop drafts of paper 1
 R 13 DUE: PAPER 1
 IN CLASS: Library orientation session

WEEK FIVE

- T 18 READ: Green & Levithan's *Will Grayson, Will Grayson*, chapters 1-10
 R 20 READ: Green & Levithan's *Will Grayson, Will Grayson*, chapter 11-end

WEEK SIX

- T 25 READ: Bray's *Beauty Queens*, beginning through chapter 11
 R 27 READ: Bray's *Beauty Queens*, chaps. 12-22

WEEK SEVEN

- T Oct 2 READ: Bray's *Beauty Queens*, chaps. 23-end
 R 4 READ: Myers' *Fallen Angels*, pp. 3-107

WEEK EIGHT

- T 9 READ: Myers' *Fallen Angels*, pp. 108-217
 R 11 READ: Myers' *Fallen Angels*, pp. 218-end

WEEK NINE

- T 16 READ: Satrapi's *Persepolis*, introduction to page 71
 R 18 READ: Satrapi's *Persepolis*, p. 72-end
 DUE: PROJECT PROPOSAL

WEEK TEN

- T 23 READ: Roth's *Divergent*, chapters 1-14
 IN CLASS: Project proposals returned
- R 25 IN CLASS: Library research day #2; there will be a written assignment due at the end of the session that cannot be made up, so attendance is mandatory

WEEK ELEVEN

- T 30 READ: Roth's *Divergent*, chapters 15-26
- R Nov 1 READ: Roth's *Divergent*, chapter 27 to end

WEEK TWELVE

- T 6 NO CLASS MEETING—ELECTION DAY
- R 8 READ: Stork's *Marcelo in the Real World*, chapters 1-10

WEEK THIRTEEN

- T 13 READ: Stork's *Marcelo in the Real World*, chapters 11-21
- R 15 READ: Stork's *Marcelo in the Real World*, chapter 22-end
 DUE: Draft of annotated bibliography
 IN CLASS: Finish discussion of *Marcelo*; workshop drafts of annotated bibliography

THANKSGIVING BREAK**WEEK FOURTEEN**

- T 27 READ: Alexie's *Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, beginning through p. 129
- R 29 DUE: Annotated bibliography
 READ: Alexie's *Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, pp. 130-end

WEEK FIFTEEN

- T Dec 4 DUE: First draft of final project
 IN CLASS: Workshop drafts of final project
- R 29 Course evaluations and wrapup

FINALS WEEK

Final projects must be turned in, either given to me in my office or put in my mailbox, by 5 p.m. on Monday, December 10th.