

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 discuss all of this more as the course gets underway.

Contact Information

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Office Hours: Mondays & Wednesdays 2:00 – 3:30 p.m., 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, 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 9780316013697)

Anderson, Laurie Halse. *Speak* (ISBN 9780312674397)

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

Rowell, Rainbow. *Fangirl* (ISBN 9781250030955)

Saenz, Benjamin Alire. *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* (ISBN 9781442408937)

Satrapi, Marjane. *Persepolis* (ISBN 9780375714573)

Wein, Elizabeth. *Code Name Verity* (ISBN 9781423152880)

Whaley, John Corey. *Noggin* (ISBN 9781442458727)

—Plus your choice of two other YA books to be decided later in the semester, which you’ll review on GoodReads and do a book talk about.

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

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

Paper 1 (reading autobiography)	15%
Goodreads reviews	20%
Annotated bibliography	10%
Final project (10-12 pages)	20%
Drafts of paper 1, annotated bib, and the final project	15%
In-class writing assignments (including discussion questions, project proposal, preliminary research report, book talk, etc.)	20%

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**

- M Jan 12 Introduction to course
 W 14 READ: eCampus , Chapter 5 of Donalyn Miller's *The Book Whisperer*
 IN CLASS: Discussion of paper 1
 F 16 READ: eCampus, editorials about "dark" YA literature by Gurdon and Alexie
 IN CLASS: Discussion about the marketing, audience, and functions of YA Lit

WEEK TWO

- M 19 NO CLASS—MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. HOLIDAY
 W 21 READ: Anderson's *Speak*, pp. 3-74
 F 23 READ: Anderson's *Speak*, pp. 74-137

WEEK THREE

- M 26 READ: Anderson's *Speak*, pp. 141-end
 W 28 **DUE: Draft of paper 1**
 IN CLASS: Feedback session on drafts
 F 30 **DUE: Paper 1**
 IN CLASS: In-class writing activity, readings TBA

WEEK FOUR

- M Feb 2 READ: Rowell's *Fangirl*, chaps. 1-13 (through page 157)
 W 4 READ: Rowell's *Fangirl*, chaps. 14-25 (through page 305)
 F 6 READ: Rowell's *Fangirl*, chaps. 26-end

WEEK FIVE

- M 9 IN CLASS: Wrap-up discussion of *Fangirl*; book talks
 W 11 READ: Myers' *Fallen Angels*, pp. 3-107
 F 13 READ: Myers' *Fallen Angels*, pp. 108-217

WEEK SIX

- M 16 READ: Myers' *Fallen Angels*, pp. 218-end
 W 18 IN CLASS: Wrap-up discussion of *Fallen Angels*; book talks
 F 20 READ: Satrapi's *Persepolis*, introduction to page 71

WEEK SEVEN

- M 23 READ: Satrapi's *Persepolis*, p. 72-end
 W 25 READ: eCampus articles about trends in LGBTQ YA literature
 F 27 READ: Saenz's *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*, chaps. 1-6
 IN CLASS: Discussion; introduction to final project and annotated bibliography

WEEK EIGHT

- M Mar 2 IN CLASS: Library Day #1—meet in Room 136 on the lower level of the Wise Library
 W 4 READ: Saenz's *Aristotle and Dante*, chaps. 7-13
 F 6 READ: Saenz's *Aristotle and Dante*, chaps. 14-end

WEEK NINE

- M 9 IN CLASS: Wrap-up discussion of *Aristotle and Dante*; book talks
 W 11 READ: Wein's *Code Name Verity*, pp. 3-105 (to section titled "Ferry Pilot")
 F 13 READ: Wein's *Code Name Verity*, pp. 105-203 (to Part 2)

WEEK TEN

- M 16 READ: Wein's *Code Name Verity*, pp. 207-268
 W 18 READ: Wein's *Code Name Verity*, pp. 269-end
 F 20 **DUE: Project Proposal**
 IN CLASS: Wrap-up discussion of *Code Name Verity*; book talks

WEEK ELEVEN

- M 30 **DUE: Preliminary research report**
 IN CLASS: Project proposals returned
 W Apr 1 Library Day #2—meet in Room 136 on the lower level of the Wise Library
 F 3 NO CLASS—EASTER RECESS

WEEK TWELVE

- M 6 READ: Alexie's *Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, pp. 1-81 (to "Slouching Toward Thanksgiving")
 W 8 READ: Alexie's *Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, pp. 82-168 (to "Valentine Heart")
 F 10 READ: Alexie's *Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, pp. 169-end

WEEK THIRTEEN

- M 13 IN CLASS: Wrap-up discussion of Alexie; book talks
 W 15 **DUE: Draft of annotated bibliography**
 IN CLASS: Feedback session on drafts
 F 17 **DUE: Annotated bibliography**
 IN CLASS: Book talks

WEEK FOURTEEN

- M 20 READ: Whaley's *Noggin*, chaps. 1-13
 W 22 READ: Whaley's *Noggin*, chaps. 14-24
 F 24 READ: Whaley's *Noggin*, chaps. 25-end

WEEK FIFTEEN

- M 27 **DUE: First draft of final project**
 IN CLASS: Feedback session on drafts
 W 29 Book talks (if necessary—otherwise, conferences on final project)
 F May 1 Book talks (if necessary—otherwise, conferences on final project)

FINALS WEEK

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. on Wednesday, May 6th.