COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 325 – CONTEMPORARY YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE

Prepared By: Cindy Lou Daniels
Revised By: Linda Bertrand, April 2012
            Emily Hamilton-Honey, May 2015
A. **TITLE:** Contemporary Young Adult Literature

B. **COURSE NUMBER:** ENGL 325

C. **CREDIT HOURS:** 3

D. **WRITING INTENSIVE COURSE:** Determined by Semester

E. **COURSE LENGTH:** 15 weeks

F. **SEMESTER(S) OFFERED:** Spring

G. **HOURS OF LECTURE, LABORATORY, RECITATION, TUTORIAL, ACTIVITY:**
   3 lecture hours per week

H. **CATALOG DESCRIPTION:** This course is an exploration of contemporary young adult novels as a genre of literature. Of particular interest are the historical development, current trends, and enduring characteristics of young adult literature and its influence on readers. Various works are analyzed according to critical perspectives. Readings include a number of subgenres, i.e. adventures, mysteries, humor, fantasy, science fiction, the people and places of history, and modern social issues.

I. **PRE-REQUISITES/CO-REQUISITES:** Expository Writing OR Oral and Written Expression AND one literature course AND 30 credit hours earned with a cumulative GPA of 2.0, OR permission of the instructor.

J. **GOALS (STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES):**
   By the end of this course, students will be able to:

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<tr>
<th>Course Objective</th>
<th>Institutional SLO</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>a. describe</strong> the historical development, current trends, and enduring characteristics of young adult literature.</td>
<td>1. Communication 2. Critical Thinking</td>
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<td><strong>b. identify</strong> literary elements in young adult novels and <strong>write</strong> critical responses to selected works using terms common to the humanities.</td>
<td>1. Communication 2. Critical Thinking</td>
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<td><strong>c. argue</strong> for specific interpretations of course materials, including current research and/or social issues explored (i.e. racism, child abuse, life-choices, societal/world issues, humor in literature).</td>
<td>1. Communication 2. Critical Thinking 3. Professional Competence</td>
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K. **TEXTS:**
   (Representative texts; texts chosen by instructor)

**REFERENCES:**
(Representative references; references chosen by instructor.)

Alsup, Janet, ed. *Young Adult Literature and Adolescent Identity Across Cultures and
Brown, Joanne, and Nancy St. Clair. *The Distant Mirror: Reflections on Young Adult
Bucher, Katherine, and Kaavonia Hinton-Johnson. *Young Adult Literature: Exploration,
Clark, Beverly Lyon. *Kiddie Lit: The Cultural Construction of Children’s Literature in
2009.
Hayne, Judith A. and Jeffrey S. Kaplan. *Teaching Young Adult Literature Today:
Insights, Considerations, and Perspectives for the Classroom Teacher*. Maryland:
Hintz, Carrie and Elaine Ostry. *Utopian and Dystopian Writing for Children and Young
Trites, Roberta. *Disturbing the Universe: Power and Repression in Adolescent

M. **EQUIPMENT**: Technology enhanced classroom

N. **GRADING METHOD**: A-F

O. **MEASUREMENT CRITERIA/METHODS**: (list in bullet form, all outlines should be created for face-to-face course delivery, attendance is not measurable, but you can list participation – see examples below)

- Exams
- Quizzes
- Class Presentation
- Papers
- Participation

P. **DETAILED COURSE OUTLINE**:

**ENGL 325-- CONTEMPORARY YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE**

**TOPICS**

I. Introduction
   A. Defining Contemporary Young Adult Literature
   B. Literary Elements
      1. Character
      2. Plot
      3. Themes
      4. Setting
      5. Point of View
      6. Tone
      7. Style

II. Different Genres of Young Adult Literature (not all need be covered in one semester)
   A. The “New Realism” of Life and Problems
      1. e.g., *Whirligig, The Facts Speak for Themselves, The Miseducation of Cameron Post*
   B. The “Old Romanticism” of Wishing and Winning
      1. e.g., *Armageddon Summer, Walk Two Moons, Speak*
   C. Adventures, Mysteries, The Supernatural, and Humor
      1. e.g., *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian, Holes*
   D. Fantasy, Science Fiction, Utopias, and Dystopias
      1. e.g., *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban, The Hunger Games, Feed, Boy Meets Boy, The Messenger, Sang Spell*
   E. History and History Makers
      1. E.g., *Burning Up, The Midwife’s Apprentice, I Have Lived A Thousand Years, Fallen Angels, Eleanor Roosevelt: A Life of Discovery*

III. Social Aspects of Young Adult Literature
   A. Current Trends
      1. Pop Culture and Mass Media
      2. Literary Canon vs. Contemporary Young Adult Literature
   B. Enduring Characteristics
      1. Viewpoint
      2. Realism vs. Formula Fiction
      3. Pacing
      4. Subject Matters
5. Inclusion of Ethnic/Cultural Differences
   C. Censorship and the Young Adult Novel
      1. Assumptions about Censorship and Censors
      2. Who/What/Why?

IV. Conclusion
   A. Defining Contemporary Young Adult Literature

Q. LABORATORY OUTLINE: None