ENGL 108F (02): The Rebel
Fall 2000

Class Times: Wednesdays, 6-9pm
Place: EL 206
Instructor: Michael Truscello
Office Hours: PAS 1064, Mondays 12-1:30, Wednesdays 4:30-5:30, or by appointment
Mailbox: HH 229, email: miketruc@enoreo.on.ca

Course Summary: ENGL 108F will consider the figure of the rebel in literature through a series of representative texts, many from American literature. We will discuss how and why certain figures rebel against dominant norms, social structures, and institutions, for what purposes, and the end results of their rebellion. We will also consider how the texts themselves might constitute subversive acts. This course is designed to assist you in thinking, discussing and writing about literature in the university setting. It will focus on close readings of the assigned texts and since much of the class will depend on discussion, you will be expected to have read the designated texts before you come to each class.

Required Texts:


Recommended Texts:


Assignments:

1. **Summary Sheets: 20%**
   You will hand in on assigned days: (a) a plot summary of the text at hand (no more than 2 pages, double spaced) and, more importantly, (b) a thoughtful question (or questions, if you like) about the text which goes beyond plot to consider form, important themes, etc. The question should be designed to provoke discussion in class, and both the question and the summary should be your own.

   ** You will hand in a summary sheet for FOUR of the seven texts, and they will each be marked out of five.

   ** Please note that these summary sheets will form a considerable percentage of your grade and that I will not accept late summary sheets. It is your responsibility to ensure that your summaries arrive on time to the correct mailbox. They will be due by noon in my mailbox in HH 229 on designated Wednesdays.

2. **Short Essay (4-5 typed pages): 20%**
   Due October 18, 2000. Details to follow.

3. **Long Essay (6-7 typed pages): 30%**
   Due November 29, 2000. Details to follow.
4. **Final Exam: 30%**  
TBA by the university. A leaf of notes will be allowed.

**Essay Policies:** Essays will be handed in to me at the beginning of the class on the day they are due. Essays that are not handed to me directly must be signed and dated by a department secretary and placed in my mailbox in HH 229.  
Late essays will be docked 2% per day starting the day the assignment is due, including weekends. Extensions are at my discretion for serious medical and/or family emergencies only. Budget your time and plan on handing in your assignments on time.

**Please note:** Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will be dealt with according to the University of Waterloo Disciplinary Code (see Policy 71 in Undergraduate Calendar). All quotations, paraphrased material and ideas which are not your own MUST be properly cited and referenced.

**Class Schedule (\* class eligible for Summary Sheet):**

**September 13:** Introduction

**September 20:** *V for Vendetta: Anarchy in the U.K.*

**September 27:** *Catcher in the Rye: Growing Up Is Hard To Do*

**October 4:** *Howl and Other Poems: The Beat Goes On*

**October 11:** *Song of Solomon: History and Subjectivity*

**October 18:** *Song of Solomon continued; Short essay due*

**October 25:** *Fight Club: “Deliver me from Swedish Furniture.”*

**November 1:** *Neuromancer: What is The Matrix?*

**November 8:** *Crying of Lot 49: Sex, Drugs, and Maxwell’s Demon*

**November 15:** *Mao II: Novelist as Rebel*

**November 22:** *Mao II continued; Exam Preparation*

**November 29:** Final Exam; Long essay due