The Rebel in Literature:  English 108F (Winter)
Time:  Tues., Thurs. 10:00-11:30 a.m.
Instructor:  Erin E. MacDonald
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Office Hours:  Wed., Thurs. 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
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Course Description

Through class discussions, group work, lectures, and writing assignments, we will explore
the many faces of rebellion as it appears in novels, essays, and poems from Canada, the
U.S., England, and Germany.  We will examine the rebellious aspects of both the
characters and the authors themselves.  By the end of the course, students will have gained
a knowledge and understanding of diverse groups of people, through discussions of how
and why individuals of various genders, races, classes, sexual or political orientations,
ethnicities, and purposes rebel against the societies in which they live.  In addition,
students will develop critical reading and writing skills through both class activities and
assignments, learning to interrogate and analyze both texts and their cultural contexts.

Required Texts

Lonesome Traveler, Jack Kerouac
Howl and Other Poems, Allen Ginsberg
The Book of Eve, Constance Beresford-Howe
Wuthering Heights, Emily Bronte (Oxford edition)
Steppenwolf, Hermann Hesse
The Chosen, Chaim Potok
and course readings booklet (in UW bookstore)

Recommended Texts

Little, Brown Compact Handbook
MLA Handbook, Fourth Edition

Assignment Weighting

Reading Journal  25%
Short Essay     20% (first draft, 5%)
Test             25%
Research Essay  30%
Description of Assignments for English 108F (Winter)

Reading Journal: This assignment will be fully explained during the first week of classes. Basically, it consists of a double-entry notebook format, wherein students will write comments, ideas, questions, and observations in one column as they read each book, and critical analyses or elaborations of those comments in the second column. Journals will be checked for completion on a regular basis, and marked according to their level of critical engagement with the texts. The journal mark will also reflect the student's participation in class. This assignment is worth 25% of the total grade.

Short Essay: This essay should be 4-5 pages in length, double spaced with 12 point font and following MLA guidelines for format and citation. Only primary sources (i.e. the text being studied) may be used for this essay. Students should develop a concise thesis of their own, arising from an idea that came out of the Reading Journal. This thesis must be supported with proof from the text itself. A first draft of this essay is due Feb. 11, and will be marked out of 5%. Students who do not submit a first draft will not be allowed to hand in a final draft and will lose all 20%. These first drafts will go through a process of peer editing before the final copy is due March 9. This copy will be worth 15% and added to the first draft for a total of 20%. The short essay must be written on material covered in class prior to Feb.11, up to and including The Book of Eve.

Test: This test will take place in class on Thursday, March 25. Two and a half hours will be allotted for its completion. Students will be asked to answer 4 of 6 short answer / identification questions, and to then write 2 of 4 short essay questions, each with a proper thesis and support. Questions will cover all readings as well as anything discussed in class. The test is worth 25% of the final grade.

Research Essay: This essay should be longer (7-9 pages) and more comprehensive than the previous essay, and should include secondary research in addition to critical analysis of the primary sources. At least three secondary sources must be used to help prove your own thesis, and must be properly cited both in parenthetical reference and in a Works Cited page. The essay must be double spaced and follow MLA format. No first draft will be submitted for this essay and the instructor will not proofread any rough copies. This essay must be written on material covered in class after Feb.11 and beginning with Wuthering Heights. The research essay is due April 6.

Course Policies: All written assignments may be submitted earlier than the due date. All late assignments will receive a penalty of 10% off per day, and will not be accepted more than three days late without a doctor's note. Assignments not handed in during class must be signed by the English secretary to verify the time and date, and placed in the instructor's mailbox no later than 4 p.m. on the date due. Students are responsible for making up any assignments or tests missed due to illness or emergency, and must provide proof sufficient to warrant any extensions granted at the discretion of the instructor. Any incidents of plagiarism will be dealt with in the severest manner possible according to University of Waterloo guidelines. See calendar for official policy.
Tentative Schedule for English 108F (Winter)

Tues. Jan. 5 - Intro to course

Thurs. Jan. 7 - Intro to the Beats and first two essays in coursebook, grammar diagnostic test (ungraded).


Tues. Jan. 19 - Kerouac

Thurs. Jan. 21 - Kerouac


Tues. Feb. 2 - Ginsberg

Thurs. Feb. 4 - Beresford-Howe, *The Book of Eve*.

Tues. Feb. 9 - Beresford-Howe and Wollstonecraft, Schreiner readings in coursebook.

Thurs. Feb. 11 - Beresford-Howe, first draft of short essay due.


Thurs. Feb. 25 - Bronte poems in coursebook, peer editing of essays.

Tues. Mar. 2 - Bronte

Thurs. Mar. 4 - Bronte


Thurs. Mar. 11 - Hesse

Tues. Mar. 16 - Hesse

Thurs. Mar. 18 - Hesse, start Potok.


Thurs. Mar. 25 - Test

Tues. Mar. 30 - Potok, Blakey essay in coursebook.

Thurs. Apr. 1 - Potok, ungraded grammar test.

Tues. Apr. 6 - Summary, research essay due.