The Rebel in Literature

English 108F (Fall)

Thursdays, 7-10 p.m.

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Course Description

Through lectures, discussions, group work, writing assignments, and oral presentations, we will explore the question, What constitutes a rebel? We will look at a wide variety of novels, poems, and stories from Canada, the U.S., England, and Europe, examining the different faces of the rebel. We will ask: Does simply being different qualify a person as a rebel? Do you have to choose to be a rebel? What is the function of the rebel character in a work of literature? 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 thinking, essay writing, and research skills through both class activities and assignments.

Required Texts

Lonesome Traveler, Jack Kerouac
Howl and Other Poems, Allen Ginsberg
The Book of Eve, Constance Beresford-Howe
Jane Eyre, Charlotte Bronte
Steppenwolf, Hermann Hesse
The Chosen, Chaim Potok
Confessions of a Flesh-Eater, David Madsen
and booklet of additional course readings, in bookstore

Recommended Texts

Little, Brown Compact Handbook
MLA Handbook, Fourth Edition

Assignment Weighting

Participation/attendance 5%
Abstracts 15%
Short essay 15%
Test 25%
Research essay 25%
Group presentation 15%
Description of Assignments for English 108F

Abstracts: Students will be required to submit at least two abstracts, a third being optional. If three are submitted, the two best grades will be chosen and calculated into the final mark. An abstract will consist of a 1-1 1/2 page typed, single spaced reaction to one of the assigned readings for that day. It should touch on main points or arguments of the reading, and also give a critique of those points, in the student's own opinion. **Due:** October 1, November 5, December 3 (optional)

Short Essay: This assignment consists of a 4-5 page essay, double spaced, MLA format, using only the primary source (assigned reading), and no secondary criticism. Students should develop a concise thesis of their own and support it with proof derived from the text itself. Suggested essay topics will be given on or before Oct.1. **Due:** October 29

Test: The full three hours will be allotted, although many students will not require more than 2 hours to complete the test. Students will be asked to answer 4 of 6 short answer questions, and then to write on 2 of 4 short essay questions. Questions will cover readings as well as any material discussed in class. **Due:** November 19 in class.

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 personal critique. At least three secondary sources must be used in developing a thesis, and properly cited both in parenthetical reference and in a Works Cited page. The essay must be double spaced and follow proper MLA format. Suggested essay topics will be given on or before Oct. 22. **Due:** December 3

Group Presentation: Students will form groups of about 4-5, depending on class size, and sign up to give a presentation together on the reading(s) assigned for that date. The presentation may take any form agreed upon by group members and approved beforehand by the instructor. It must engage intelligently with the material, but may also be creative or dramatic. **Dates:** October 1 to December 3, 1998

Notes: All written assignments may be submitted earlier than the due date, and it is recommended that students giving a presentation on the last day of classes (Dec.3) have their final essays finished prior to this date. All late assignments will receive a 10% deduction per day, and will not be accepted more than 3 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 prior to 4p.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 investigated and dealt with in the severest manner possible according to University of Waterloo guidelines. See calendar for official policy.
English 108F Tentative Schedule:

Assigned readings must be prepared by the student before the class in which they will be discussed. Additional readings and excerpts are found in the course booklet.

September 17: Hinton, Thoreau, Ellison, Crisp, Gidlow (in booklet), sign up for presentations

September 24: Kerouac, Lonesome Traveler (first half), and Kerouac readings in course booklet

October 1: Kerouac, Lonesome Traveler; selected works from Ginsberg, Howl and Other Poems; Whitman, Blake, Malcolm X in booklet; first abstract due; first presentation

October 8: Beresford-Howe, The Book of Eve; Schreiner and Wollstonecraft readings, second presentation

October 15: Finish Beresford-Howe; start Bronte, Jane Eyre; third presentation

October 22: Bronte, Jane Eyre; Bronte reading from Shirley, fourth presentation

October 29: Hesse, Steppenwolf (first half); first essay due; fifth presentation

November 5: Hesse, Steppenwolf; sixth presentation; second abstract due

November 12: Potok, The Chosen (first half); Kalmar and Blakey readings; seventh presentation

November 19: Test (in-class)

November 26: finish Potok; start Madsen, Flesh-Eater (first half); eighth presentation

December 3: Madsen, Confessions of a Flesh-Eater; additional readings; ninth presentation, third (optional) abstract due; final essay due