Youth and Adolescence  
English 108M - Section 01  
Winter 1999

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Class Meets: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:00-5:30 PM  
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 2:30-3:30 PM or by appointment.

Course Philosophy
In this course, we will look at how a series of authors fictionally represent the experience of adolescence. Approaching the subject thematically, we will consider what the main issues are that adolescents face. At the same time, we will pay particular attention to how the writer constructs the reader's perception of the adolescent experience. A second, but equally important purpose of this course will be to develop an ability to analyse literature. Following from this, we will consider how to write a clear and cogent essay which explains how and why a literary work creates the impact it does.

Because this class will incorporate class discussion, you are responsible for having read all of the assigned works before the class in which they are to be discussed.

Texts
Required
Andrew Garrod & Janet Webster, Eds. Worlds Unrealized: Short Stories of Adolescence by Canadian Writers Vol. 1  
Andrew Garrod & Janet Webster, Eds. Worlds Unrealized: Short Stories of Adolescence by Canadian Writers Vol 2  
Norman McClean. A River Runs Through It & Other Stories  
108M Course Reader

Highly Recommended  
All royalties derived from the sale of this text will be donated to the English Department Scholarship Fund.  
A good dictionary, for example the Canadian Oxford Dictionary

Assignments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In-Class Commentary Exercise 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>In-Class Commentary Exercise 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay (includes process marks)</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Late Policy

Assignments must be handed in during class on the day the assignment is due. Late assignments will be penalised 2.5% per day and 5% per weekend (i.e. if the assignment was due on Thursday and is handed in Monday it will lose 7.5%). If you cannot meet a deadline because of illness or personal crisis, please speak to me BEFORE the assignment is due, and we will work out an alternative deadline. However, a doctor’s note may be required, and arrangements may not be made the day an assignment is due; you must contact me earlier. If an assignment is to be completed during class and you miss the class, you will receive zero on the assignment unless prior arrangements have been made.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism is a serious offence, and is defined under Policy 71 of the University of Waterloo as “the act of presenting the ideas, words or other intellectual property of another as one’s own.” Plagiarism can include unintentional use of other’s ideas, and will not be tolerated. You are also reminded that “submitting an essay, report, or assignment when a major portion has been previously submitted or is being submitted for another course without the express permission of all instructors involved” is an offence under Policy 71.

Course Schedule

N.B. Unless otherwise noted, all readings are found in the 108M Course Reader and all stories are found in either Volume 1 or 2 of Worlds Unrealized.

Tuesday January 5
Course Introduction

Thursday January 7 Introduction to reading short stories and to the representation of adolescence in literature
Readings: “Introduction” to Worlds Unrealized.
“Fiction: An Overview”
“Fiction, Fact and Truth.”
“Fiction: Experience and Analysis”

Tuesday January 12 Plot & Structure I: Chronological Order
Readings: “Plot and Structure: The Development and Organization of Stories
“Plot”
Story: “Striptease”

Thursday January 14 Plot & Structure II: Non-Chronological Order
Reading: “Design: Juxtaposition and Repetition in the Structure of Fiction”
Story: “Hurricane Hazel”
Tuesday January 19  Characterization
Readings:  “Characters: The People in Fiction”
            “Character”
Story:    “That Sensual Music”

Thursday January 21  Point of View
Readings:  “Point of View: The Position or Stance of the Narrator or Speaker”
            “Point of View: Perspective and Language”
Story:    “Never Sisters”

Tuesday January 26  Setting
Reading:   “Setting: The Background of Place, Objects and Culture in Stories”
Story:    “An Act of Mercy”

Thursday January 28  IN CLASS COMMENTARY #1

Tuesday February 2  Imagery, Symbolism, Metaphor
Readings:  “Symbolism and Allegory: Keys to Extended Meaning”
Story:    “The Immortals”

Thursday February 4  Review
Story:    “In the Fall”

Tuesday February 9  Workshop on Essay Writing
Readings (in the Little Brown Compact Handbook):
Chapter I: Writing Process and Paragraphs (“Invention,” “Thesis and Organization,”
“Paragraphs”)
Chapter VII: Special Types of Writing

Thursday February 11  Style
Reading:   “Style: The Words that Tell the Story”
Story:    “To Set Our House in Order”

Tuesday February 16  No Class - Reading Week

Thursday February 18  No Class - Reading Week

Tuesday February 23  Tone
Reading:   “Tone: The Expression of Attitude in Fiction.”
Story:    “In a War”

Thursday February 25  Theme I
Reading:   “Idea or Theme: The Meaning and Message in Fiction”
            “Meaning”
Story:    “Salvation”
Tuesday March 2  Theme II: Identity
Reading: “Identity: Theoretical Overview”
Story: “The Student Prince”
Presentation of Thesis Statements to Class (2 process marks).

Thursday March 4  Family Relationships and Growing Up
Story: “Of White Hairs and Cricket”
Presentation of Thesis Statements to Class (2 process marks).

Tuesday March 9  Class cancelled - Consultations on Papers
Bring a thesis statement and formal outline to meeting (3 process marks)

Thursday March 11  Class cancelled - Consultations on Papers
Bring a thesis statement and formal outline to meeting (3 process marks)

Tuesday March 16  Diction and Characterization
Readings: “What ‘Dirty Words’ Really Mean.”
“On the Use of ‘Dirty’ Words”
Story: “Cages”

Thursday March 18  Symbolism Revisited
Transition to Adulthood: “The Glass Roses”

Tuesday March 23  Fact or Fiction?
Readings: “Fiction, Fact and Truth”
“The Spectrum of Fiction”
Novel: A River Runs through it and Other Stories
Essays Due

Thursday March 25  IN-CLASS COMMENTARY #2

Tuesday March 30
A River Runs Through It and Other Stories

Thursday April 1
A River Runs Through It and Other Stories

Tuesday April 6
Final Discussion on Youth and Adolescence in Literature: How adequate are the thematic categories in the Worlds Unrealized Anthology?