Youth and Adolescence

Time: Wednesday 7pm to 9:50pm
Room: AL 211
Instructor: Sara Humphreys x2636 smhumphre@uwaterloo.ca
EAS 2224, office hours: 11am - 11am Tuesdays and Thursdays

Calendar Description: Studies the portrayal of young protagonists as they respond to the mores of adult society: their own physical, mental, and psychological development, and the expectations placed upon them by themselves and by others.

Course Description: This course deals with two stages in human development often categorized as "angst-ridden." We will study how the categories of "youth" and "adolescence" came into existence and how these categories are represented in literature, film, and popular culture in general. This course examines the cultural construction of teens and youths in a variety of literary genres including film, drama, poetry and prose.

Course Objectives: In class, you will learn various historical concepts of youth and adolescence from the 17th century up to the 21st century. You will explore a variety of questions such as: "How do literature inform and build the idea of "teen" and "teen culture?" How did these representations of youth and "adolescence" change from one historical period to the next? Your investigation and analysis of the works listed below will provide you with a greater understanding of the "teen" in a variety of time periods and literary representations while simultaneously improving your reading, writing, and analytical skills.

Required Texts:

48 Shades of Brown Nick Barnes
Romeo and Juliet (Arden edition)
Kim Ho Yoon, Jan Lee
Pride and Prejudice Jane Austen
Ravensong Lee Maracle
Course Book

Class Organization:

A three-hour class is gruelling enough without having to listen to a 180-minute lecture. Furthermore, the human mind retains information more fully when material is presented in different formats. Therefore, the class is organized as follows:

1. The first hour and a half will consist of lecture and discussion. A variety of visual methods will be incorporated with the lecture.
2. The last hour and a half will consist of group work where a question relating to the work assigned for the week will be debated and then presented.
3. There are weeks where a film will be shown in lieu of group work, please see the course calendar listed below for details.

**Evaluation:**

- **Response papers:** 20%
- **Participation:** 10%
- **Essay Proposal:** 10%
- **Final Essay:** 30%
- **Final Exam:** 30%

100%

**Assignment Descriptions:**

**Response Papers:** 20%

Response papers are aptly titled: you must respond to one or two works given in the course. There are two 5 page, double-spaced response papers due in October and November each worth 10%. A more detailed description, with an example, will be given prior to the first due date. Response papers are graded according to the detail of analysis, quality of prose and creativity.

**Participation:** 10%

If you do not make one single comment during lecture, you will not be penalized. This grade is based completely on group participation. You must contribute to debate and dialogue with your classmates and vice versa. Your attendance to the group work component is mandatory. Each unsubstantiated absence will result in a 2% deduction.

**Final Essay 30% and Essay Proposal 10%**

The final essay has two components:

1. A proposal worth 10% of the overall mark. More information will be given later in the term but well in advance of the due date.

2. You will write a comparison and contrast paper or a close reading paper on one or two of the works studied over the term. You will be provided with essay topics to guide your thesis and analysis. More information will be provided later in the term.

**Final Exam 30%**

A 2-hour exam consisting of short answer and essay questions. a template of the exam will be provided toward the end of term.
Course Schedule:
(Subject to change with notice)

Week One Sept 14th:

Readings due: None

Lecture topics: outline of the course and requirements

Group work: None

Assignments due: None

Week Two Sept 21st:

Readings Due: "The Body" Stephen King

Assignments Due: none

Lecture Topics: introduction of course themes, which are 1) rites of passage, 2) sexuality, 3) contact zones and 4) alienation. We will also discuss the art of close reading.

Group Work: none

Week Three Sept 28
Theme One - Rites of Passage:

Readings due: Romeo and Juliet, selections from Victor Turner in the course book

Lecture topics: introduction to the concept of "rites of passage" and "liminality," what are a "youth" and an "adolescent?" Who are Romeo and Juliet? - A brief introduction to reading him as a text.

Group work: none - we will watch Baz Luhrmann's Romeo and Juliet

Assignments due: none

Week Four Oct 5th
Theme Two - Sexuality:

Readings due: Romeo and Juliet

Lecture topics: filial duty and sexual desire in the 17th century and the 20th century.
Group work: Adaptation – comparisons between Luhrmann’s representations of teenage violence and desire and Shakespeare’s and an introduction to writing response papers.

Assignments due: none

Week Five Oct 12th:

Readings due: 48 Shades of Brown

Lecture topics: negotiating burgeoning heterosexuality and homosexuality, sexual fantasy vs. sexual reality, the usefulness of irony.

Group work: none

Assignments due: response paper

Week Six Oct 19th:

Readings due: “Goblin Market” (course book), selections from Ian Marsh’s biography on Christina Rossetti in the course book.

Lecture topics: wrap up of 48 Shades of Brown, comparison between “good” and “bad” sexuality in the Victorian and contemporary periods. “Goblin Market” and Christina Rossetti.

Group work: TBA

Assignments due: none

Week Seven Oct 26th
Theme Three - Contact Zones:

Readings due: Unna Bau

Lecture topics: contact zones, comfort zones and cultural crossings, cultural expectations and conformity

Group work: TBA

Assignments due: none

Week Eight Nov 2nd:

Readings due: Unna Bau
Online Component: This course uses an online classroom assistant called Nicenet (www.nicenet.org). You can access info on assignments, course info and handouts online.

Plagiarism:
The definition of plagiarism provided by the English Department at the University of Waterloo states, "Plagiarism is the act of presenting ideas, words, or other intellectual property of another as one's own." We do not merely request that you cite your sources - YOU MUST CITE ALL SOURCES. Otherwise, you will commit a serious academic offense.

If you have any concerns or questions please see the instructor, or visit the following website for more information:
http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infoucal/UW/policy_71.html
If you are unsure of what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it, there is a helpful website produced by the University of Waterloo to clarify the issue:

"How to Avoid Plagiarism and Other Written Offences: A Guide for Students and Instructors"
http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~sager/plagiarism.html

Late Policy: Extensions are granted on a case-by-case basis, and no extensions will be negotiated after the due date. Any papers without an approved extension will be penalized 5% per day including weekends.

Other Course Policies:

Student Grievances: "Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #40, Student Grievance, http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.html (Senate Undergraduate Council).

Disability Services: "Note for students with disabilities: The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term. (Senate Undergraduate Council)."