Adolescence is said to be the most difficult time in an individual’s life. It marks a dramatic transition between childhood and adulthood fraught with deep anxiety and a desperate need for self identity. In this course, we will examine fictional representations of the experience of adolescence. We will look at both male and female characters from different time periods and cultural backgrounds. Our study will focus on several major themes in adolescence including the development of sexuality, identity, and political consciousness.

Required Texts (to be studied in the following order):

Joyce, James. Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man. (Penguin)
Lessing, Doris. Martha Quest. (Penguin)
Salinger, J.D. The Catcher in the Rye. (Little Brown)
Childress, Alice A. A Hero ain’t Nothing but a Sandwich. (Putnam)
Anonymous. Go Ask Alice. (Avon)
Maracle, Lee. Ravensong. (Press Gang)

Course Evaluation:

15% Class discussion/participation

Oct. 13 20% Short Essay. 500-750 wds (2-3 typed double-spaced pages). A discussion of adolescence, this essay should focus on a particular theory or approach. Research from this essay may be used in next essay assignment.

Nov. 17 35% Major Essay 1500 wds. (7 typed double-spaced pages). A literary analysis of one of the texts from the course list. This must be a research essay which focuses on some aspect of adolescence.

TBA 30% Final Exam (will be based on material covered in class and readings).

Deadlines for submission of papers are to be strictly observed. Late papers will not be accepted. (Students requiring special consideration must consult with the instructor prior to the due date.)