ENGLISH 108M
YOUTH AND ADOLESCENCE

Section: 02      Tuesday and Thursday: 1:00 - 2:30
Fall 1995        Arts Lecture Room 206
Instructor:      Shannon Kelly
Mailbox:         Hagey Hall 229 (open 8:30 - 4:30)
Office:          PAS 1059   Extension: 2685
Office Hours:    Tuesdays and Thursdays
                 2:30 - 3:30

Course 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."

This course, specifically, will focus on the issues raised by various depictions of youth and adolescence in both fiction and non-fiction works. The core texts of the course include a variety of novels, incorporating both "traditional" and non-traditional texts, and providing a diversity of authors and perspectives. Other "texts", such as magazine articles, music lyrics, and television depictions, will be discussed in the context of class workshops.

The diversity of texts concerning "young protagonists" should immediately alert us to the fact that there are many issues to be considered when we try to define the experience of "adolescence". Is adolescence a "time" in one's life -- how are our ways of remembering and retelling our experiences significant? How do we respond to our culture -- to living in a specific time and place in history -- as adolescents? Is identity determined by "self" or society, and how do we resolve differences in what we are versus what we are told to be?

This course will provide a forum for discussing and debating some of the issues regarding how "adolescence" is defined and experienced in various texts, with the hope of developing relevant insight for our contemporary context. The literary techniques of each text will also be considered, as they are an integral part of the text's ability to promote a certain view of adolescence.

Essential concepts, definitions, and key readings will be discussed by the instructor through lectures. Significant time in every class will also be devoted to group discussion and small group work, and marks will be assigned for individual participation in class workshop activities. The course objectives are for students to identify the issues raised by various depictions of adolescence and to participate in analysis and discussion of these issues, including discussion via the academic essay. (over)
Required Course Texts:

*all texts available in the University Bookstore*  *listed here in alphabetical order by author*

Coupland, D.  
Joyce, J.  
Morrison, T.  
Munro, A.  
Ricci, N.  
Winterson  
Woolf, V.  

Shampoo Planet  
Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man  
The Bluest Eye  
Lives of Girls and Women  
Lives of the Saints  
Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit  
Orlando

Course Assignments:

Weight: Date:
Workshop Presentation: 20%  date assigned in class
Short Essay: 15%  October 24
Final Essay: 25%  December 5
Final Exam: 40%  scheduled by registrar

*details regarding each of these Assignments will be handed out in class*

Reading Schedule:

September 12, 14  
September 19,21,26  
Sept. 28,October 3,5,10  
October 12,17,19  
October 24  
Oct. 24,26,31  
November 2,7,9  
November 14,16,21  
Nov. 23,28,30  
December 5

Introduction  
Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man  
Orlando  
Lives of Girls and Women  
Short Essay Due  
The Bluest Eye  
Lives of the Saints  
Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit  
Shampoo Planet  
Final Essay Due; Exam Review

*review segments will be incorporated into the lectures before the exam and paper deadlines*

Course Policies:

Students are responsible for all readings and lecture/discussion material. Missed exams or papers may only be re-written with proof of illness from the physician. Late papers will be penalized by 5% per school day, unless permission is granted for an extension due to illness. Under no circumstances will papers be accepted after the final exam. Guidelines for each assignment will be handed out in class, including guidelines regarding academic honesty and plagiarism.