ENGLISH 108M: Youth and Adolescence

Fall, 2011
T, TH 1:00-2:20
RCH 206

Instructor: Alexis McQuigge
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Course Website: www.engl108m.wordpress.com

Office Hours: T, TH 11:30-12:30, or by appointment

Course Description:
This course examines the depictions of children and teenagers in literature from early fairy tales to Jane Austen's satiric Northanger Abbey and Harper Lee's groundbreaking novel To Kill a Mockingbird. Important will be the ways in which children and teenagers – along with childhood and adolescence – are depicted, but also important will be the ways in which literature is used to create the notion of 'the child' and to mold and shape normative childhood existence. We will also be focusing on discussions of various literary elements, and will work through instructions for proper essay writing for students writing about literature.

Required Texts:
Lee, Harper. To Kill a Mockingbird.

Schedule
We will attempt to follow this schedule as closely as possible. Please have all readings completed for the class in which they have been assigned.

Sept. 13
○ Introduction

Sept 15
○ Beaumont, “Beauty and the Beast” (Fairy Tales, pg. 32-42).
○ Perrault, “Bluebeard” (Fairy Tales, pg. 144-148)
○ Grimm, “Hansel and Gretel” (Fairy Tales, pg. 184-191).

Sept 20
○ Austen, Northanger Abbey pg. 5-69
○ Bennett & Royale “The Beginning” (Course Website)
Sept 22
- Continuation of Austen pg. 5-69.
- Acheson, Ch. 1 “The Purpose of an Essay about Literature”.

Sept 27
- Austen, pg. 69-133
- Bennett & Royale, “Readers and Reading” (Course Website)

Sept 29
- Continuation of Austen pg. 69-133
- Acheson, Chapter 2: “Research within the Text”

Oct 4
- Austen, pg. 133-187
- Bennett & Royale, “The Author” (Course Website)

Oct 6 – First Journal Entry Due!
- Finish Austen/Introduction to Dickens
- Acheson, Ch. 3, “Using Reference Works”.

Oct 11 – Essay Outlines Due!
- Dickens, Great Expectations, pg. 9-99
- Bennett & Taylor, “Narrative” (Course Website)

Oct 13
- Continuation of Dickens pg. 9-99
- Acheson, Ch 4, “Research about Social and Historical Contexts”

Oct 18
- Dickens, pg. 99-187
- Bennett & Taylor, “Character” (Course Website)

Oct 20
- Continuation of Dickens, pg. 99-187
- Acheson, Ch. 5, “Research about the Current Critical Assessment of Literary Works”

Oct 25 – Thesis Statement Due
- Dickens, pg. 187-289
- Bennett & Taylor, “Voice” (Course Website)

Oct 27 – Class Cancelled.
- Please read Acheson, Ch. 6, “Inventing your Argument” and summarize the 3 main ideas to be handed in on Nov. 1.”
Nov 1
  o Dickens, pg. 289-358
  o Bennett & Taylor, “Figures and Tropes”

Nov 3 – Second Journal Entry Due!
  o Continuation of Dickens, pg. 289-358
  o Celebration for finishing Dickens (with Candy!)
  o Acheson, Ch. 7 “Composing your Argument”

Nov. 8
  o Stevenson, Treasure Island, pg. 9-94
  o Bennett & Taylor, “History” (Course Website)

Nov. 10 – Essay Draft Due
  o Continuation of Stevenson pg. 9-94
  o Acheson, Ch. 8 “Writing the Body of the Essay”

Nov 15
  o Stevenson, pg. 95-183
  o Bennett & Taylor, “Ideology” (Course Website)

Nov 17 – Third Journal Entry Due!
  o Continuation of Stevenson, pg. 95-183
  o Acheson, Ch. 9 “Editing and Proofreading your Essay”

Nov 22
  o Lee, To Kill a Mockingbird pg. 1-188
  o Bennett & Royale “Racial Difference” (Course Website)

Nov 24
  o Continuation of Lee pg. 1-192
  o Acheson, Ch. 10 “Documenting your Sources and Presenting your Work”

Nov 28 – Fourth Journal Entry Due
  o Lee, pg. 193-357

Dec 1
  o Review/Questions/Distribution of Take-Home exam

Assignments and Evaluation

4 Journal Entries x 5% each = 20%
  o Students will be asked to write short (1-2 page) journal entries based upon each of
    the four major texts studied in the course. You may write about whatever you’d like
    (your reaction to the text, how you feel about one of the characters, something you
    think is important that I’ve left out of lecture, and so forth) providing you use
academic language and have something resembling a thesis statement and evidence to back up what you are writing.

Essay Progress Assignments (35%)

- The English Department at UW is interested in helping students learn to write about literature from the very beginning of their university careers. You will submit, on the dates outlined, the following elements of your final essay, which I will comment on and return to you:
  - **Essay Outline (10%)**: A brief outline of the points you wish to cover for your final paper. You need not necessarily name every text that you intend to speak about, but you must have 3 main supporting points (these can be thematic, rather than text-specific).
  - **Thesis Statement (10%)**: Please submit a draft of your thesis statement. This need not be your final thesis, but you must show that you are constructing and thinking about an argument.
  - **Draft (15%)**: You must submit a draft of your final paper. This should be as complete as possible, including your thesis statement, your 3 main arguments, and all textual and critical supports.

Final Essay (20%)

- Once I have graded and commented on your draft, you will have an opportunity to tighten your arguments, correct grammar/spelling/format/citation issues, and generally ‘touch up’ your essay for submission as a final draft.

- **TOPIC**: For the final essay you will choose one of the texts we are discussing (including the fairy tales, if you wish) and write an essay that discusses the way in which your chosen text, and its movie adaptation (there are several adaptations of the texts on the course), differ. You may discuss why you feel one is more/less effective in conveying the text’s messages to, and about, children and adolescents, you may discuss the ways in which scenes that have been deleted or added change the way the text is interpreted, you may discuss whether or not you feel the actors chosen have altered the way you have interpreted the character. You must, of course, adhere to all essay conventions and MLA citations.
  - For assistance, you may refer to Bennett and Taylor, including their sections on “Motion Pictures” which is available on the course website.
  - You may incorporate secondary critical sources if you wish, but I urge you to focus on making your own argument as your primary task.

Take – Home Exam (25%)

- A take-home exam consisting of one essay question will be assigned on the last day of class, December 1st. If you are not present in class that day, you will not be given the take home. It is due no later than 4pm on December 15, 2011. If you do not submit your paper by this time, you will receive a grade of
You will submit your papers to the English Department Drop Box on the second floor of Hagey Hall. These will then be date-stamped and given to me. Do not give your paper to the secretaries or anyone else. You are responsible for making sure your paper is deposited in the drop-box.

Course Policies:
Policy for Late/Incomplete/Missed Assignments:
All assignments are due at the beginning of class (any assignment handed in after the class has commenced will face a 10% deduction). All late assignments will be penalized an additional 2% per calendar day (including weekends). We live in a technological age and, unless a student was born yesterday,\(^1\) he or she is aware that technology has the potential to fail and that the likelihood of such an event doubles the night before a paper is due. With this in mind, students are encouraged to back up assignments regularly; computer failure and other technological mishaps do not qualify for an extension. I will not remind you if you have failed to turn in an assignment, nor will I ask you where it is. You’re grown-ups now, and part of being a grown-up is remembering what your responsibilities are, and keeping up with them.

Extensions:
I would, generally speaking, like to read your best work, rather than whatever form of it you can turn in by the due date. With that being said, no extensions will be granted for any reason other than serious, documented medical illness or a death in the family. Please be aware that, no matter how long ago it may have been, your instructors were undergraduate students once too: we are familiar with whatever biological or medical phenomena it is that results in a vast number of grandparents falling ill and passing away during the exam period.

Expectations and Common Courtesy:
Attendance: Students are expected to attend all lectures. Should you miss a lecture you are responsible to find out what you missed from one of your colleagues in the class; the course instructor will not provide notes or an overview.

Punctuality: Please arrive on time and plan to remain for the entire class. Unless you become ill, do not begin packing up your books before class is over because this is distracting to everyone. If you know in advance that you cannot stay for the entire class, please sit next to the door and exit quietly.

Courtesy in Class: Other than to respond to or ask a question, please do not converse during lectures (even quiet whispering is distracting and disrespectful of your fellow students and your instructor). Please turn off (or silence) all cell phones and other electronic devices before the class begins. Students who plan to spend the lecture time watching movies, completing assignments for other courses, checking their email, Facebook or chatting on MSN are invited to sit at the back of the classroom or leave. Should laptop use become a distraction we will, as a class, consider setting up laptop-free zones. Should your cellular

\(^1\) Students born yesterday are not permitted to take ENGL 108M.
phone ring in class, please be advised that I consider myself well within my rights to make a call with it. Please also be advised that many of my relatives spend the fall and winter in Arizona, and love to hear from me!

**E-mail:**
Students should be aware that I do not, as a habit, sit in front of my computer waiting to receive correspondence from them. Should you e-mail me, I will respond as quickly as possible, but cannot guarantee that this will happen as quickly as you’d like. Normally speaking, I keep business hours. That means if you e-mail me at 11pm the night before an assignment is due, the chances of me replying to you in time are slim. Avoid doing this. I am usually unavailable during the weekends, so please plan your time/questions accordingly.

Please also note that I will not accept assignments submitted by e-mail. If you are not present in class to hand it in, my suggestion is that you make arrangements to deliver it to me beforehand. Any assignment submitted electronically will not be graded.

**Academic Misconduct:**
Generally speaking, I have absolutely no tolerance for academic offenses including plagiarism, working co-operatively on assignments, or re-submitting already graded materials. The assignments in this course, unless otherwise indicated, are individual. Any sign that students have been working together to complete assignments, or that students have been working co-operatively with the Internet on their assignments, will be thoroughly investigated, and appropriate action will be taken.

**A Note on Academic Integrity for Students:**
Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. [Check www.uwaterloo.ca/academicintegrity/ for more information.]

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.