English 108M  
Youth and Adolescence  
- Spring 2002 -  

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Course Description:  

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.  

Detailed Description:  
English 108M will explore youth and adolescence as constructed categories that are defined differently by different cultures and time periods. As we will see, the dividing lines between the young and the adult have often been, and continue to be, blurred because the characteristics that distinguish the young and the adult are continually changing. Utilizing texts (poetry, prose, film, and computer media) from various cultures and nations from the late 18th century up to our current day, this course will address such themes as: the evolution of the distinction between childhood and adulthood, the perceived innocence associated with the young, and conversely the growing demonization of the young (due in large part to the increase in youth crime). Furthermore, recalling that, in the past, our view of youth has mostly (though, of course, not always) been constructed by adults nostalgically looking back at their pasts, we will contemplate the growing movement towards youth being able to represent themselves to others (using, for example, the Internet). In the end, our goal for this course will not be to locate some fixed definition of what it means, or has meant, to be a youth or adolescent, but rather our goal will be to appreciate the slipperiness of these terms and discuss the implications of their continual evolution.  

Required Texts:  
Harris, Claire. She. Fredericton: Goose Lane, 2000.  
English 108M - Readings (Courseware)
Recommended Text:

Assignments:
Short Essay - 3-4 pages - due June 5, 2002 - 15%
In-class Mid-term Exam - June 26, 2002 - 20%
Major Essay - 6-8 pages - due July 17, 2002 - 35%
Final Exam - date to be set by the administration - 30%

Short Essay:
This assignment will require that you write a 3-4 page (approximately 800-1000 words) essay using one work from the course (film excluded) as your primary text. No research will be permitted for this assignment. Instead you will develop a thesis based upon one of the suggested topics (to be distributed May 8) and use your own close reading of your primary text to construct a convincing argument.

Major Essay:
This assignment will require that you write a 6-8 page (approximately 1500-2000 words) essay that compares two works from the course (any works from the course, but you may not write on the same work that you used for the Short Essay). While not required, you may use secondary sources for this assignment, but the number of secondary sources can be no more than four. As with the Short Essay, you should concern yourself primarily with supporting your thesis statement with evidence from your primary sources. I will provide a list of suggested topics from which you can pick (to be distributed June 12).

Important notes for essays:
1. When submitting these essays, you must provide both a paper copy AND a disk copy (either a 3½ inch floppy or a CD-R). In order to make collecting these items better organized (and so that the disks do not get damaged), I would appreciate it if you submitted your work in a large envelope or some other kind of folder. Although I hope to never have to use the disk version of your work, I do reserve the right to run essays through a plagiarism web site such as turnitin.com. (Please see note regarding academic offenses in the Course Policies section)

2. These essays will be evaluated based on the quality of writing style and the quality of the argument. Essays must be formatted according to MLA format (we will discuss this in class, but see MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers and/or The Little Brown Compact Handbook).

3. One of the most important things to remember is that I am interested in what you have to say about the material from the course. For these essays, I don’t want you to overlook the
importance of what you have to say by relying on what’s been said in class or, in the case of the Major Essay, on what other scholars have said. Please don’t just reiterate the ideas of others; I’d like to hear your ideas.

Schedule:
We will follow this schedule as closely as possible, but occasionally one week’s topic may carry over into the next week. Please have all the reading done for each class so you will be able to participate in class discussions.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Readings</th>
<th>Important Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 1</td>
<td>Orientation/Introduction</td>
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<td>May 8</td>
<td>Hoffman, <em>Struwwelpeter</em></td>
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<td>May 15</td>
<td>Blake, <em>Songs of Innocence</em>; and Wordsworth, &quot;Intimations of Immortality from Recollections of Early Childhood&quot; (in Readings package)</td>
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<td>May 22</td>
<td>Barrie, <em>Peter Pan</em></td>
<td>Essay Writing Tips discussed</td>
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<td>May 29</td>
<td>Twain, <em>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</em></td>
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<td>June 5</td>
<td>T.B.A. - film in class regarding the demonization of children</td>
<td><strong>First Essay due</strong></td>
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<td>June 12</td>
<td>Frank, <em>The Diary of a Young Girl: The Definitive Edition</em></td>
<td>Major Essay topics distributed</td>
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<td>June 26</td>
<td>no readings</td>
<td><strong>Term Test</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>July 3</td>
<td>Harris, <em>She</em></td>
<td>Create-your-own-topics for Major Paper must be approved by today</td>
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<td>July 10</td>
<td>Johnston, <em>The Divine Ryans</em></td>
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<td>July 17</td>
<td><em>The Degrassi Web Page</em></td>
<td><strong>Second Essay due</strong></td>
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<td>July 24</td>
<td>Concluding remarks and course review</td>
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Class Policies:

Late Essays:
Essays will be due at the beginning of the class on the dates specified above. All late assignments will be penalized 3% per day, including weekends (i.e. Saturday and Sunday = 6%). If you must submit a paper late, please submit it to the drop box in the English department (HH 2nd floor – I’ll give more details later; the drop box has yet to be installed), but you must first have one of the secretaries in the English department sign and date it (therefore, work must be submitted on weekdays between 9am-12pm, 1pm-5pm). Also, please note that I will not accept essays after the term’s last day of classes (Friday, July 26, 2002).

Extensions:
Except in extraordinary circumstances, all extensions must be requested by the Friday of the week prior to the essay’s due date. I reserve the right to request appropriate documentation (e.g. a doctor’s note).

Academic Offenses:
Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses that carry grave consequences: at the very least an automatic zero on the assignment/exam, but failure of the course, or worse, could result.

Plagiarism involves one appropriating the work of another and claiming it as one’s own. Common incidences of plagiarism include copying or downloading published essays, or parts of published essays; copying or downloading essays, or parts of essays, by other students; and purchasing essays on-line. Remember too that plagiarism can result from a misuse of sources: for example, a failure to indicate material from other sources by using quotation marks; a failure to offer proper in-text documentation of sources (author and page references); and a failure to provide a works cited page. Please be sure to review your papers carefully to ensure that you have used sources fairly and documented them appropriately. Although we will discuss proper use of sources in class, if you have any additional questions when it comes time to writing your papers, please email or come and see me. Don’t let carelessness lead you to a serious academic offense. For additional information about plagiarism please see http://www.library.ualberta.ca/guides/plagiarism (in particular ‘Handouts for Students’) and consult the University of Waterloo’s policy regarding academic offenses (see below).

The Dean of Arts Office requires the inclusion of the following statement on all undergraduate course outlines:

"Note on avoidance of academic offenses: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offense, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offense is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed
in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline) which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (p. 1: I 1). If you need help in learning how to avoid offenses such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean."

Note: p. 1: I 1 of the Undergraduate Calendar is also available at http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infoucal/UW/poUcy_71.html