ENGL 108M (02): Youth and Adolescence in Literature

Winter 2006

Class Times: W 7-10
Place: ES1 350
Instructor: Dr. Michael Truscello
Office Hours: W 5-6pm, PAS 1064; or by appointment
Mailbox: English Dept Drop Box, second floor Hagey Hall; email: mj2trusc@artsmail.uwaterloo.ca

Course Summary: ENGL 108M is a theme course that focuses on the portrayal of youth and adolescence in literature; the focus of this course is on literature about youth, not specifically literature for youth. We will consider how the texts characterize or construct young/adolescent protagonists, how the characters react to and interact with adult society, how their physical and emotional development is explored, and how their expectations and constraints are depicted. The course will focus on close readings of the assigned texts and since much of the class will depend on discussion, you will be expected to have read the designated texts before you come to each class. One class will be devoted to developing your writing skills, in particular the construction of a thesis statement for a university-level essay.

Required Texts:

Clowes, Daniel. Ghost World.
Kicaid, Jamaica. Lucy.
Montgomery, L.M. Anne of Green Gables.
Shakespeare, William. Romeo and Juliet.
Twain, Mark. The Adventures of Tom Sawyer.
*Courseware Package (includes selections from the Little Brown Handbook, Wordsworth, "Teen Sniper" and Simple Recipes).

Recommended Texts:


Assignments:

1. Mid-Term Exam: 20%
Details to follow. February 8, 2006.

2. Essay (7-8 typed pages; 1750-2000 words): 40%
Details to follow. Due March 29, 2006.

3. Final Exam: 40%
TBA by the university.

Essay Policies: Essays that are not handed to me directly must be placed in the English Department Drop Box. Please identify my name on the cover of your essay, to ensure it gets sorted into my mailbox. Late essays will be docked 2% per day starting the day the assignment is due, including weekends. Extensions are at my discretion for serious medical and/or family emergencies only. Such emergencies must be established with proper documentation; the question of whether I believe your excuse should never enter the equation. Budget your time and plan on handing in your assignments on time.
Please note: Plagiarism is a serious academic offense and will be dealt with according to the University of Waterloo Disciplinary Code (see Policy 71 in Undergraduate Calendar). All quotations, paraphrased material and ideas which are not your own MUST be properly cited and referenced.

Class Schedule:

January 4: Introduction: Depictions of Youth in English Literature; Wordsworth*

January 11: Romeo and Juliet

January 18: Ghost World

January 25: Writing Clinic; "Teen Sniper"*

February 1: Lucy

February 8: Mid Term

February 15: Anne of Green Gables

February 22: Reading Week – No class

March 1: Anne of Green Gables

March 8: Adventures of Tom Sawyer

March 15: Adventures of Tom Sawyer

March 22: Film: Napoleon Dynamite

March 29: Excerpts from Simple Recipes*; Essay due