English 108M--"Youth and Adolescence"

Time: Thursday, 7-10
Place: H. H. 150
Instructor: Tim Paci
Office: P. A. S. 2218
Office Hours: Thursday 5-7, or by appointment
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Course Description:

Over the next several weeks, we will explore treatments of the movement from childhood to adulthood in four major literary genres. Based primarily on analysis of short novels, the course also includes short stories, drama and poetry. In addition, we will devote some time to enhancing essay writing skills.

Classes will consist of lecture, discussion and occasional presentations. I encourage each student to keep up with his or her reading to make participation and rich discussion possible.

The course’s goals, at least in my mind, are to enhance reading and writing skills and, hopefully, to heighten our understanding of the human condition, if only provisionally and slightly.

Required Texts:

Novels:
L. M. Montgomery, Anne of Green Gables
Mark Twain, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
Toni Morrison, The Bluest Eye
Alice Munro, Lives of Girls and Women
Timothy Findley, The Wars

Drama:
James Reaney, Listen to the Wind

Poetry:
Christina Rossetti, Goblin Market (On Reserve)

Short Stories:
Andrew Garrod and Janet Webster eds., Worlds Unrealized: Short Stories of Youth and Adolescence by Canadian Writers, Volume 1

Recommended Text:

MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers

Tentative Schedule:

January
4: Introduction, essay writing
11: Anne of Green Gables
18: Short Stories
25: Huckleberry Finn

Feb
1: Short Stories, essay writing
8: The Bluest Eye, presentations begin
15: Short Stories, first paper due
22: Reading Week

March

1: Listen to the Wind
7: Short Stories, essay writing
14: Lives of Girls and Women
21: Goblin Market
28: The Wars, second paper due

Note:
Several copies of Goblin Market will be available on reserve in the basement of the Porter Library.

Assignments and Evaluation:
Each student will write two essays, one a short paper dealing with a specific issue in a specific text, the other a longer paper based on more than one text. Students will also take part in a presentation and write a final exam.

First paper (2-3 pages)..........................15%
Second paper (4-6 pages)........................25%
Presentation (groups of approximately five, 20 minutes)........15%
Attendance........................................10%
Final Exam........................................35%

Policy on Late Submissions:
If assignments are submitted late, and appropriate explanation and documentation are not provided, work shall be penalized at a rate of one full grade per class day. For example, an "A quality" paper due on February 15 but not submitted until February 22 shall be graded "B". Papers not submitted at the beginning of the class in which they are due shall be considered late. Unless an appropriate explanation is provided, those missing their presentations shall receive no credit for their group's work.

Theodore Roethke's "My Papa's Waltz"

The whiskey on your breath
Could make a small boy dizzy;
But I hung on like death:
Such waltzing was not easy.

We romped until the pans
Slid from the kitchen shelf;
My mother's countenance
Could not unfrown itself.

The hand that held my wrist
Was battered on one knuckle;
At every step you missed
My right ear scraped a buckle.

You beat time on my head
With a palm caked hard by dirt,
Then waltzed me off to bed
Still clinging to your shirt.