

Dr. Kenneth Kidd
LIT 4333
M-F Period 6
Summer A 2004

Office: TUR 4214
392-6650, ext. 302
Hours: M-W Pd. 7
& by appointment

Literature for the Adolescent

Texts

Laurie Halse Anderson, *Speak*
M.T. Anderson, *Feed*
Frank Chin, *Donald Duk*
Daniel Clowes, *Ghost World*
Robert Cormier, *I Am the Cheese*
Virginia Hamilton, *Sweet Whispers, Brother Rush*
David Levithan, ed., *You Are Here, This Is Now*
Philip Pullman, *The Golden Compass*
Pam Munoz Ryan, *Esperanza Rising*
Ellen Wittlinger, *Hard Love*

All books are at Goering's/Bageland near campus.

There is also a small coursepacket from Xerographic, available at their store (927 NW 13th St).

Overview

This section of LIT 4333 will concentrate on contemporary young adult (YA) literature, with reference to the history of adolescence and of adolescent/young adult literature as well as to twentieth-century American culture more broadly. The course will pay attention to YA texts as individual works but also as part of the contemporary scene of young adult publishing, prize-giving, and reviewing -- that is, we'll look at the cultural machinery through which "young adult" literature has been invented, sustained, and transformed through the current moment. We'll consider the entanglement of literary and cultural understandings of adolescence, and make use of relevant scholarship in history, social science, and literary criticism. Some of that scholarship is included in the coursepacket; at other times I will lecture based on that material.

Although I will sometimes provide you with background information, for which you are responsible, we will conduct class as a seminar, which means that participation is vital. Please come to class every day on time having read the assigned material. Be ready to share your responses. On occasion I may ask you to work in small groups.

Attendance Policy

Your participation is vital, and attendance is mandatory. Because we meet only for six weeks, and because I'm already giving you several days off from class, missing more than one class day is not a good idea. For that reason, you are allowed to miss only one class session without explanation. For each subsequent missed class without a doctor's note I will reduce your final course grade one-half of a letter grade. If you are not here when I take attendance -- usually at the beginning of class, but sometimes at the end -- you will be counted absent. If you have attendance problems, or are often late, please do not sign up for this class.

Assignments and Grading

Exams. All students will be examined over the material read collectively and lecture information. There will be two exams, the second of which is not cumulative. Both will be a combination of short-answer and short essay.

Memos. Over the semester, you will write 5 reading responses of 1-2 s-s., typed pages each. Out of some thwarted business urge I call such a response a "memo." The memo is simply a short meditation on the assigned reading. Your memo should offer a response to the book as a whole; don't turn in a memo if you haven't finished the assignment. You may address a number of issues or focus more in-depth on one or two; just be as specific as you can, and support your responses with examples and details from the text.

I do not expect you to have a thorough interpretation, but your memo should offer some kind of evaluation or analysis of the book. In other words, it should be more than simply random or unconnected thoughts about the work. If you like, you may make use of outside readings (biographical sketches, scholarly articles, websites, etc.). This assignment is designed to stimulate class discussion, and to help you remember the texts and generate paper ideas.

You may choose which texts to write about, but you must turn in your memo in class on the first day we discuss the novel about which you are writing. No exceptions. If there is also an article assigned that day, I expect you to address it as well, preferably in connection with the literary text.

Do not email memos to me or leave them in my mailbox. They are due in class, always. I will grade each memo and average the grades with the quizzes.

Quizzes. There will likely be several unannounced quizzes which you may not make up unless you can provide documentation of illness or emergency. These quizzes will usually consist of 3-4 short and simple questions about the reading that you can answer in several sentences or less.

Active Participation. Finally, you will receive a grade for active participation, which means coming to class regularly and on time, paying attention, asking questions, and contributing to in-class discussion. You must do all of these things in order to receive an A for participation.

Exam 1	30%
Exam 2	30%
Memos and quizzes	30%
Active participation	10%

Reading Schedule

Week 1

5/10	Introductions.
5/11	Neubauer; Kristeva (CP).
5/12	Hine; Martin (CP)
5/13	Cormier, <i>I Am the Cheese</i>
5/14	Extra <i>Cheese</i>

Week 2

5/17	Hamilton, <i>Sweet Whispers, Brother Rush</i>
5/18	More <i>Whispers</i>
5/19	Chin, <i>Donald Duk</i>
5/20	<i>Duk</i> again
5/21	Anderson, <i>Speak</i>

Week 3

5/24	<i>Speak</i> more
5/25	Clowes, <i>Ghost World</i>
5/26	More <i>Ghost World</i>
5/27	Exam 1
5/28	Pullman, <i>The Golden Compass</i>

Week 4

5/31	Memorial Day. No class
6/1	<i>Compass</i> continued
6/2	Munoz Ryan, <i>Esperanza Rising</i>
6/3	still <i>Rising</i>
6/4	Levithan, <i>You are Here, This is Now</i>

Week 5

6/7	Still <i>Here/Now</i>
-----	-----------------------

6/8 Sedgwick; Duncombe (CP)
6/9 Wittlinger, *Hard Love*
6/10 No class
6/11 No class

Week 6

6/14 *Hard Love* never dies
6/15 Latham (CP)
6/16 Anderson, *Feed*
6/17 *Feed* on
6/18 **Exam 2**