

DR. MEGHANN
MEEUSEN

ENGL 3840:
ADOLESCENT
LITERATURE



Spring 2020

Course Objectives



Contact Info

meghann.meeusen@wmich.edu

Office Hours

625 Sprau Tower

Tuesday 10am-2pm

*I am also available outside of
these times by appointment.*

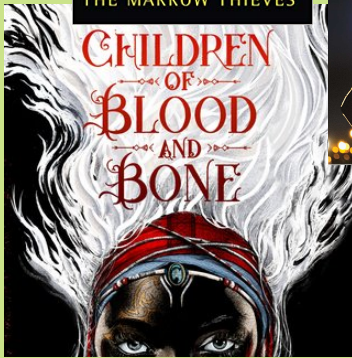
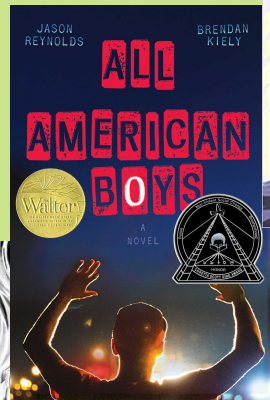
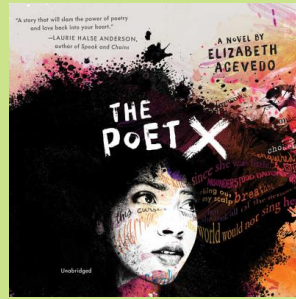
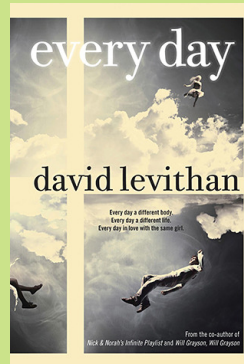
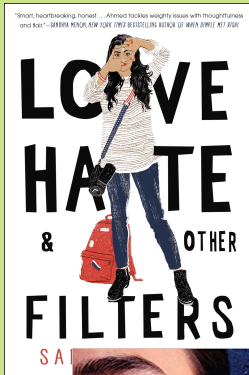
Consider Culture & Ideology: Students will discuss and write about how young adult literature reflects dominant ideologies related to adolescence and culture.

Identify Power Relationships in Adolescent Texts: Students will examine theoretical perspectives related to institutional power and ethics of narration in adolescent literature, applying contemporary critical models in a variety of settings.

Read and Compose Literary Discourse: Students will investigate how scholars and teachers think, write, and speak about literary texts, defining and producing examples of literary discourse in its various forms.

Practice Analysis and Literary Interpretation: Students will practice literary analysis and close reading, utilizing a variety of critical approaches to develop critical thinking as well as a language with which to share interpretations of literature.

Develop Familiarity with Theory-Driven Terminology: Students will build knowledge about foundational topics, concepts, and approaches to adolescent texts, developing language built on contemporary theoretical perspectives.



93%-100% A
distinctive, exceptional,
outstanding work

88-92% BA
83%-87% B
strong, thoughtful work

78-82% CB
73%-77% C
average, complete work

68-72% DC
62%-67% D
problematic, sloppy work

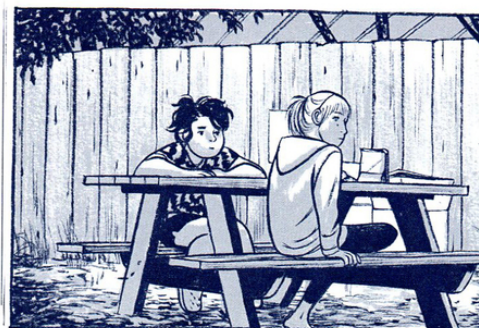
Required Books and Materials

Love, Hate, and Other Filters by Samira Ahmed
The Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo
This One Summer by Mariko Tamaki
Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi
A Blade So Black by L.L. McKinney

Every Day by David Levithan
All American Boys by Jason Reynolds
Marrow Thieves by Cherie Dimaline

Copy Card & Printing: Students will also need to purchase a \$5 Copy Card (available at the WMU bookstore) to cover the cost of printed in-class materials. For some assignments, students will need print copies for submission. If you would like something printed or copied by Dr. Meeusen (including assignments and copies for the class, etc), please email a digital version at **least 48 hours** before you need it.

Book Requirements: Students will also watch several self selected films, which they can rent or purchase online or check out from the Kalamazoo Public Library. Please bring a paper or digital copy of reading to class each day during the week it is assigned. Listening to books via audio is also encouraged, but a hard copy is necessary for class (to look up quotes, etc).



Daily Participation and Knowledge Sharing (40%)

Quizzes, Exit Tickets and Ticket-Ins: 200 total points (20 points each)

Collaborative Final "Exam": 100 points

Critical Article Handout: 100 points

Midterm Project (30%)

Midterm Line of Inquiry: 100 points

Midterm Poster Presentation: 200 points

Final Project (30%)

Project Proposal: 100 pts

Final Research Project & Rationale: 200 points

ATTENDANCE / READING ENGAGEMENT

(20% of final grade): Students will have regular opportunities throughout the semester to practice analysis through writing activities completed as homework or during class. These include quizzes, exit tickets, and ticket-ins. *Note: Students can only earn credit for these assignments when present in class. This includes ticket-ins.*

CRITICAL ARTICLE HANDOUT (10% of final grade):

Students will sign up for one critical article related to a certain week's reading and create a single page handout summarizing the main thesis and argument the writer makes, copying this handout to share with the rest of the class.

MIDTERM LINE OF INQUIRY ASSIGNMENTS (10% of final grade):

Students will propose a "line of inquiry" study proposal, exploring the potential of a particular critical question and what research might be used to delve more deeply into this particular critical or analytical study.

MIDTERM MINI CONFERENCE PRESENTATION

(20% of final grade): Students will compose a short piece of formal analytical writing that explains a specific literary interpretation, focusing on connection-making, trends/patterns, critical theory, social messages, etc and present it as a mini conference presentation (<5 minutes). They may also include a PowerPoint slideshow and/or handout as part of the presentation.

FINAL RESEARCH PROJECT (30% of final grade):

Scholars and teachers who study literature write in a variety of ways. The final project asks students to choose one of these approaches, purposefully creating a project that demonstrates understanding of the unique ways individuals think about literary texts. This project also includes a formal proposal (100 pt) and a rationale (a written defense that explains how the project meets objectives, included as part of the 200 pt project).

COLLABORATIVE FINAL / REFLECTION (10% of final grade):

Rather than a final exam, students will contribute to a collaborative archive of materials that will be distributed among the class. This contribution will highlight and recap key ideas from the semester, demonstrating cumulative analytical skills by sharing either 1) a more in-depth study of a key term or 2) a set of book recommendations related to a class topic or theme. The collaborative final is paired with a brief personal reflection (more information to follow).



Procedures & Resources

Attendance: As active participants in an academic community, students must attend class every day. As part of the attendance policy, attendance/response writing points (including quizzes) can ONLY be earned if a student is present in class. Students are responsible for any/all content they miss during class.

Please demonstrate professionalism by arriving to class on time and waiting until class concludes before packing up belongings for departure.

Late Work: I do not accept late work. Although I reserve the right to make exceptions to this policy, this is only possible after a discussion with me. If you foresee a problem completing an assignment on time, please contact me at least 24 hours in advance, and we can discuss possible arrangements.

Resources: Please make yourself familiar with the following campus services and policies; if you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask:

- Disability Services for Students www.wmich.edu/disabilityservices
- Division of Student Affairs / Diversity Questions www.wmich.edu/students/diversity
- Sexual and Gender-Based Harassment and Violence, Intimate Partner Violence, and Stalking Policy www.wmich.edu/sexualmisconduct
- Religious Observance http://www.wmich.edu/facultysenate/downloads/MOA0702_religious_observances_final.pdf
- Office of Student Conduct www.wmich.edu/conduct
- Civility Statement http://wmich.edu/sites/default/files/attachments/u370/2016/Civility%20Stmt.7-27-16_0.pdf

If you are a student with a disability (e.g. physical, learning, psychiatric, vision, hearing, etc.) and think that you might need special assistance or accommodation in this or any other class, please call Disability Services at (269) 387-2116 or visit them at Woodlawn Place. Please don't hesitate to speak with me about ways to meet your needs in this capacity.

Additionally, I am more than happy to discuss ways that this course could better meet any student's needs, and I encourage anyone who is struggling for any reason to contact me. I will do my very best to fairly accommodate all students who express concern in a respectful way.

Academic Integrity: Students are responsible for making themselves aware of and understanding the University policies and procedures that pertain to Academic Honesty. These policies include cheating, fabrication, falsification and forgery, multiple submission, plagiarism, complicity and computer misuse. The academic policies addressing Student Rights and Responsibilities can be found at

<http://catalog.wmich.edu/content.php?catoid=24&navoid=974>.

If there is reason to believe you have been involved in academic dishonesty, you will face academic penalty based on the infraction's severity, which can include a failing grade and/or referral the Office of Student Conduct. Please consult with me if you are uncertain about an issue of academic honesty prior to the submission of an assignment.

Dr. Meeusen's private phone, for emergencies only: 586-651-0289



Inclusivity

In my classroom, all are welcome. We listen to each other, and we practice respect, kindness, and compassion. We seek to understand each other, and we value everyone's perspectives, including (and especially) perspectives of those who are marginalized due to race, gender, sexuality, disability, ethnicity, religion, class, and any other construct that defines a person's sense of self. We strive to critically explore ideologies that prevail in our society, and we seek to consider the destructive nature of power dynamics that perpetuate inequality.

If anyone in the class behaves in a manner contrary to these values, I will respectfully address the behavior directly. I also encourage anyone who feels that these values have been disrespected or violated to respectfully speak up and/or speak with me privately. This includes instances in which my words or actions do not align with this statement of inclusivity, for I acknowledge that we are all human beings who make mistakes, and only in learning about how our behavior affects others can we become more positive members of society. If you have questions or concerns about this statement, please speak to me immediately.