

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, & HUMAN SERVICES  
SCHOOL OF TEACHING, LEARNING, & CURRICULUM STUDIES

Survey of Young Adult Literature  
CI 67/77314  
SPRING 2011

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Office Hours: Before and after class times (latter by appointment)

Secretary: Ms. Sherry Ernsberger

**Course Description:** To explore young adult literature across genres and effective practices with adolescents in literacy using literature.

**Course Objectives:**

- To understand literature by genres.
- To become knowledgeable about authors, titles, and effective practices associated with adolescent literacy.
- To become knowledgeable about issues associated with literature and its teaching in middle school and secondary classrooms.

**Course Requirements**

**Readings**

- Assorted readings online
- *Copper Sun* by Sharon Draper
- *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood* by Marjane Satrapi
- *Creating Critical Classrooms* by Lewison, Leland, & Harste.

**Assignments**

1. Participation in Literature and Discovery Circles, and participation in the Book Bistro. (10).
2. All assigned and needed readings to participate in the course and complete assignments with integrity.
3. One major course project, using one of these options(60).
  - a. Project on critical literacy - after gaining a better understanding of critical literacy, design one critical literacy project that you would do with students. Submit your plan in advance and by February 17 for approval. This could be very exciting. You will submit the plan of what you proposed, how it actually went, collect feedback about student learning, and your reflections on the experience.

b. A mini-action research study on a topic in YA literature with students or teachers. You will submit your idea in advance by February 17. Your final submission will be your introduction with the reason for the project; a literature review supporting the topic with 5-7 references for Master's level students, and 10-12 references for doctoral level students. Reference must be from scholarly or other academic sources. Your lit review is followed by an explanation of your design and method. Your results and your reflections on those results are then presented. You will of course add your bibliography and any needed appendices. APA style.

c. A Nonfiction project, done with students or teachers, that may also include some critical literacy, which would, for example, involve students collecting their own data on authenticity, authority, perspectives, etc. Your idea must be submitted by February 17. Bamford and Kristo's book CHECKING OUT NONFICTION or MAKING FACTS COME ALIVE are some good sources of ideas. Your completed submission includes your original idea, data or artifacts collected during the project, a detailed description of the project and your reflections about it.

d. You can propose your own project if your circumstances don't suit these assignments. Proposal due by Feb. 17.

EACH OF THESE CHOICES IS WORTH 60 POINTS IN THE COURSE.

4. Browsing -For each session where a topic or genre is presented, class members are expected to have browsed a library collection, and bring to class a selection of books (about 7-10) that are good representations of the genre or topic based on learning from reading and class sessions. Class members must have selected and sampled all the books they share, and should be prepared to talk about their selections. By sampling, we mean that you would have read some sections of the book. (15 points)

5. Your annotated bibliography - In the course of assignments and browsing, you will have read parts or all of many books. You will prepare one annotated bibliography of your readings. This is INCLUSIVE of what you read for any assignment, but must include a minimum of (15):

1 graphic novel

1 controversial title (such as a censored book)

5 titles by minority authors

2 international titles (first published outside US, on topics of international interest)

5 titles on nonfiction

1 poetry collection

All titles must be YA literature.

At least 50% of your titles must be 1995 or newer.

All books in this file must be ones that you read entirely.

Your final submission is an annotated bibliography with APA style citation, a brief composed summary, and any notes you wish to make about using the book in a classroom setting.

A minimum of 20 books should be on the list.

You could choose to include a text set of picture books that would be appropriate for use with adolescents (5-7 titles) on a particular topic with would collectively count as one item on your list.

**Evaluation:**

Participation in literature and discovery circles and book bistro (10)

Project (60)

Annotated Bibliography (15)

Browsing (15)

95 -100 = A

93-95 =A-

89-92= B+

85-88 =B

83-85=B-

79-82 = C+

75-78=C

See syllabus addenda on Blackboard for course and university policies.