

Fall 2019 Course Descriptions

Instructor: Kalani Pattison

Course: ENGL 361

Title: Young Adult Literature

Description: In this course, we will survey adolescent and young adult literature (YA lit) from the twenty-first and latter half of the twentieth century, though we will briefly discuss well-known older works for context. We will explore:

- * A variety of forms (novels, short stories, and poems) in the various genres of historical fiction, realistic fiction, fantasy, and science-fiction.
- * Works by authors from a variety of continents and ethnicities.
- * How these works both express notions of the nature of adolescence and shape those notions within a culture, paying particular attention to characters' growth into virtuous, compassionate, wise(r) adults
- * Conceptions of justice, power, gender, language, and communication.

In our explorations, we will apply principles of literary analysis to the texts that we read, but we will not discuss teaching practices (this is not a course focused on pedagogy). Students will read assigned texts, write brief weekly assignments and longer arguments, complete a creative argument project, and have chances to lead discussion and make presentations.

Proposed Readings: Curtis -- *Watsons Go To Birmingham* -- 1963; Cashore -- *Jane, Unlimited*; Adichie -- *Purple Hibiscus*; and many others.