

English 3520 – Young Adult Literature

Overall English Department Mission Statement

The English Department at Dixie State College strives to instill in students an appreciation for the centrality of language and literature in human culture, particularly their function in social, historical, and political contexts. Students who major in English master skills in analyzing and evaluating texts and other media, as well as learning how to produce focused critical essays.

Emphasis Mission Statement (English Education)

In accordance with NCTE/NCATE program standards for initial preparation of teachers of secondary language arts, our English education courses help students adopt and strengthen professional dispositions and skills needed by English language arts teachers. Students integrate knowledge of English, students, and teaching.

Course Description

Required of English majors pursuing an emphasis in English Education, and open to other interested students. In depth exploration of contemporary adolescent literature, including content, structure, diversity issues, and critical evaluation. Also designed to provide strategies for teaching young adult readers. Prerequisite: ENGL 2010 (Grade C or higher). SP

Course Goals

- To promote an understanding of the needs and interests of young adults
- To survey materials and authors of interest to young adults
- To identify and use selection and evaluation criteria and resources that relate to young adult literature
- To encounter issues related to YA literature

Course Learning Outcomes

Upon completing this course, students will have improved their ability to:

- analyze, orally and/or in written form, literary aspects of young adult literature including plot, setting, characterization, theme, point of view, and figurative language
- identify the characteristics of quality young adult literature from various literary genres
- critically evaluate works of young adult literature and select appropriate young adult literature to meet the needs of individual teens
- identify current issues and trends in young adult literature and articulate informed personal positions regarding these issues.
- create and/or adapt existing lesson and unit plans designed to meet the needs of adolescents in English classrooms

Methods of Assessment:

Formative Assessment Methods

In-Class Discussions: Students will participate in various in-class discussions including partner, small group, and large group interaction, to be evaluated informally by the instructor. Students will also prepare responses to books read through “Literature Circles.”

Summative Assessment Methods

Essays: Students will analyze and evaluate books for adolescents in a progressively more sophisticated manner, culminating in short formal essays. Stages of this process include naming and explaining the significance of literary elements, design elements, and poetic devices, composing 1-2 paragraph theme statements, and finally composing, organizing, and revising full literary analyses.

Unit Plan: Students will design and orally present a unit plan for teaching a selected work or works of adolescent literature.

Rationale: Students will be asked to choose one of the books they read for the course and write a rationale for teaching the book, using the guidelines outlined by the National Council for Teachers of English.

Final Exam: Perform satisfactorily on an exam that measures retention of course material (as well as analysis and interpretation).

Value-Added Assessment Method

Pre/Post Test: Students will take a course-specific pre- and post-test, to assess the ways in which their learning has increased during the semester.