

THE UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN ONTARIO
London **Canada**
Department of English and Women's Studies

Testimony, Youth and Human Right's Literatures

ENG 9125B
Mondays 12:30-3:30
ROOM NO. WL 259

Jan 2016

Office Hours: Mondays 11-12:30
or by appointment

Professor Julia Emberley FRSC
Department of English

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Description:

In this course students will examine testimonial and literary texts written by or about young people in relation to Human Rights discourses. Students will examine primary documents on Human Rights, key theoretical texts on the subject of human rights, the field of "Human Rights literatures" and a selection of testimonial texts and international literatures that challenge, intervene and expand upon contemporary Human Rights discourses. We will examine issues related to gender and sexuality, indigenous rights, decolonization, and the meaning of being "human."

Evaluation:

Seminar response papers	20%
Class Participation	10%
Seminar Presentation/Written summary	25%
Research Paper (Due Dec. 10)	45%

Response papers 20%:

You are required to write 2-3 double-space pages engaging with weekly materials. Some weeks contain designated instructions for this assignment. For all other weeks, please write a "response" to the literary and/or theoretical work for that week. Engage in an argument with the theoretical material and how, if applicable, it contributes to an analysis of that week's literary or filmic texts .

Please upload your response papers at least 24 hours before class on the course OWL site.

Class Participation 10%:

10% allotted for class participation.

Seminar presentation & written summary 25%:

Seminar presentations are expected to be 30-40 minutes, including class discussion. Please do not read from a prepared text. The emphasis here should be on developing oral presentation skills. Students are required to submit a 3 page (double spaced) summary of their presentation including class discussion the following week.

Final research essay 45%: Abstract due before April 4, essay due April 11.

20 pages or 5000 words on a topic related to the course. Please submit an abstract plus bibliography of your essay by April 4. The emphasis here is on a “research” essay, which means that you are expected to do a substantial amount of research in support of a clearly articulated argument. Include in your abstract the empirical materials you will be analyzing, your theoretical framework, and a summary of your discussion questions.

Required Readings:

Amnesty International, ed. *Freedom: Short Stories Celebrating the Universal Declaration of Human Rights*

Gabriella Ambrosio, *Before We Say Good Bye*

Ishmael Beah, *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*

John Boyne, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*

Jack Donnelly, *Human Rights: Theory and Practice*. 3rd Edition

Elizabeth Swanson Goldberg and Alexandra Schultheis Moore, eds. *Theoretical Perspectives on Human Rights and Literature*. (On library reserve) – referred to as TPHR

Ghassan Kanafani, *Palestine’s Children*

Eden Robinson, *Monkey Beach*

Lee Maracle, *Ravensong*

Marjane Satrapi, *Persepolis* Vols. 1 & 2

Martha C. Nussbaum, *Poetic Justice: The Literary Imagination and Public Life*

Richard Wright, *Black Boy*

Malala Yousafzai, *I Am Malala: The Girl Who Stood Up for Education and Was Shot by the Taliban*

Statement on Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf