

**Writing 2291G: Special Topics in Writing
Creating Youth: Writing for Young Adults
Course Outline
Fall 2022**

Instructor: Dr. Miranda Green-Barteet
Office: UC 4428
Phone: 519-661-2111 ext. 84661
Class Time: W 10:30-1:30

Email: **mgreenb6@uwo.ca
Office Hours: ***T 10:30-12:30 and By Appt.
Location: TC-304

**Email is the best way to contact me. Please allow at least 48 hours for me to respond to you.

**I will be holding office hours in-person and virtually. To sign-up for a time to attend office hours, go here: <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1R23xIRBeXrFQUQd3bcTlkrGPbtDp7DcyjHq-KNiqdhl/edit?usp=sharing>.

Land Acknowledgement:

Western University is situated on the traditional territories of the Anishinaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lunaapeewak and Attawandaron peoples, who have longstanding relationships to the land and region of southwestern Ontario and the City of London.

Course Description and Objectives

In recent years, literature for young adults has become enormously popular, even as critics and writers struggle to define the genre. Generally, young adult (YA) literature is literature written for readers between the ages of 12 and 18, but it can also be geared toward university-aged readers. Most works of YA feature a teenage protagonist, a protagonist who does not yet identify as an adult, or one who approaches problems from an adolescent perspective. While the genre is most targeted to adolescents, approximately half of individuals reading YA literature are adults, and children younger than 12 often read YA literature as well.

The purpose of YA literature, as critic Roberta Seelinger Trites asserts, is to help adolescents "learn about the social forces around them. They learn to negotiate the levels of power within which they myriad of social institutions they must function including family; the church; school; the government; social constructions of sexuality, gender, race, and class; and social mores surrounding death." As Trites explains, YA literature can help adolescents learn how to negotiate their place in the world. The genre then, which includes realistic fiction, speculative fiction, historical fiction, drama, and verse novels, is diverse and is defined primarily by the characters inhabiting the literature and those for whom it is written.

In this course, we will consider the art and craft of writing for young adult readers. We will begin by reading and discussing a range of texts written for young adults. The purpose of the reading will be to discover and examine principles of craft, paying particular attention to narration, character development, story development, and style. As we read, we'll consider the differences and similarities between "great" YA literature and "great" adult literature. We will then write literature for young adults, completing a

variety of assignments and in-class workshops, commenting on one another's work. Our goal is to complete several pieces geared specifically to young adult readers.

Throughout the semester, in addition to gaining and sharing knowledge through the assigned readings and writing assignments, successful students will learn to

- Understand YA literature as a genre and how it has developed;
- Identify key elements of YA literature and apply those elements in their own writing;
- Generate ideas in a variety of genres, including fiction and poetry;
- Analyse and respond critically to published writing and the work of their peers;
- Incorporate feedback into revisions;
- And identify and correct errors in composition, grammar, and mechanics.

Required Texts

In addition to the following novels, we will also read secondary source material, which I will post to OWL. You may purchase the editions I have selected, available at the UWO bookstore, or you may use whatever edition you prefer, including an electronic version. You will need to bring a version of the text to class as we will discuss specific passages. Because this class is focused on writing literature, we may not read a text in its entirety.

Fangirl (2013), Rainbow Rowell

The Hate U Give (2017), Angie Thomas

The Marrow Thieves (2018), Cherie Dimaline

You Should See Me in a Crown (2020), Leah Johnson

Course Requirements (**complete statement of all assignments/grade components**)

*Please note that all major assignments will be due on Fridays at Midnight, with the exception of the Revised Novel Chunk and Process Analysis.

Participation/Workshop Participation	10%	Ongoing
Short Writing Exercises	10%	Ongoing
Short Fiction/Novel Analysis	15%	Due: Oct. 7 th @ midnight
Novel Pitch	15%	Due: Oct. 21 st @ midnight
Novel Chunk	20%	Due: Nov. 18 th @ midnight
Revised Novel Chunk and Process Analysis	30%	Due: Dec. 9 th @ midnight

Engagement/Workshop Engagement: In my opinion, the most successful college classrooms have students and instructors equally engaged in a discussion about the readings and assignments. I expect that all students will complete assigned course readings and will be prepared to discuss those readings on the appropriate day as well as prepared to participate in workshops. Class discussion, in-class writing, and work shopping will comprise a large part of class, and while I recognize that not all students are comfortable speaking in class and that there is some difficulty in holding class discussions via Zoom, I do expect that all students will be engaged and actively listening.

Students are required to complete an Engagement Achievements Worksheet throughout the term and to submit it electronically by the last day of class. Students who do not submit the Worksheet will receive a 0 for participation.

Students are expected to actively participate in writing workshops. We will have a minimum of 3 writing workshops during the semester. Students will be placed in groups by the instructor, and students will receive detailed instructions for submitting drafts of writing projects to OWL to facilitate sharing information with their groups.

Short Writing Assignments: You will complete several short writing assignments over the semester. These assignments will be completed in the Forum Module of OWL. We may, occasionally, complete short writing assignments in class.

Novel Analysis/Short Fiction: You will complete either a short fiction assignment or a novel analysis assignment, which we will begin in class and workshop. A detailed prompt is available in OWL.

Novel Pitch and Outline: You will complete a novel pitch and a novel outline. A detailed prompt is available in OWL.

Novel Chunk: You will complete a chunk of a novel-in-progress. A detailed prompt is available in OWL.

Revised Novel Chunk and Process Analysis: Based on feedback received from the instructor and during class workshops, you will revise your novel chunk and complete a process analysis to explain how you approached and completed your revision. A detailed prompt is available in OWL.

Course Policies

Discussion Guidelines:

We will cover a variety of topics pertaining to young adult literature. Among other topics, we will consider how race, class, gender, sex, and sexuality are presented within the genre. Some of the materials we will consider may include topics that may be difficult to read about and to discuss. Ensure you are comfortable discussing this potentially sensitive material. Additionally, this class is a space in which students are free to express their views, to post questions, or to raise issues without reprisal.

Students should also feel free to address any topics in their written projects, taking care to do so within the parameters of the genre. If a writing project contains scenes of a sensitive or upsetting nature, I expect students to prepare their peer review groups.

Professionalism & Privacy:

Western Students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#). Additionally, the following expectations apply to this course:

- Students are expected to be courteous and kind and to follow online etiquette expectations provided on OWL.
- All course materials created by the instructor are copyrighted and cannot be sold/shared.
- All course materials created by graduate students (i.e., presentations, handouts, discussion questions, etc.) are the intellectual property of the student creating the materials and cannot be sold/shared.
- Recording are not permitted (audio or video) without the instructor's or the students' explicit permission.
- Permitted recordings are only to be used for class and are not to be distributed.
- All recorded sessions, if any, will remain within the course site or unlisted if streamed.
- Students should feel free to keep their cameras on or off as they choose, with the exception of presentations. When you are giving a presentation, please turn your camera on.
- Students should also feel free to use an appropriate virtual background and to use a nickname on Zoom. If you choose to use a nickname, please email me so that I learn your nickname and mark your attendance based on your nickname.

Submitting Assignments: All assignments are due in-class on the date stated on the class schedule. You are expected to submit an electronic version to OWL. All papers should be submitted as .doc or .dox files. Do not submit PDFs. Assignments should be submitted at the time indicated on the class schedule/assignment prompts.

It is your responsibility to submit assignments on time. *Late papers will not be accepted.*

Please get in touch via email **24-hours prior** to an assignment's due date to request an extension.

Note: if you need an extension, you do not need to share with me the intimate details of your personal life. That information is none of my business, and you should never have to disclose private information to get support. If you feel compelled to offer a reason for requesting an extension, I encourage you to be creative (e.g., your cat vomited on your rough draft, or you're a Marvel super-villain who is planning an inter-galactic heist).

Owl/Sakai: The use of OWL/Sakai is necessary for successful completion of this course. This includes accessing readings as stipulated in the course outline, downloading instructions and guidelines for assignments, and submitting assignments OWL. All course information, including assignments, will be posted on the course website.

Communicating with Instructor: Email is the best way to communicate with me. It may take up to 24 hours for me to respond to you during the week and 48 hours on the weekend.

Attendance Policy: The very nature of this course requires that you attend regularly to do well. You are expected to come to class. Should you need to be absent, notify me as soon as you know you will be away. If you miss more than **2 classes**, I reserve the right to deduct 10% off your final grade (e.g., an earned final grade of 80% will be reported as a final grade of 72).

This policy will be waived only for medical or compassionate reasons. If you have good reasons for waiving an absence of one class meeting (e.g., if you've missed three hours, and need or want to miss another class meeting) discuss these reasons with your instructor within one week of that absence. If your absence is extended and prolonged (over one week of continuous non-attendance), then you should discuss it with your academic advisor in your home faculty, who may require documentation. That advisor may then contact all of your instructors. See also: '**Medical Accommodation Policy**' below.

Note: a class meeting missed in order to write a test, exam, or other form of 'make-up class' in another course **will** count as non-attendance and **will** attract penalties as defined above if applicable. Instructors at the University of Western Ontario **shall not require** a student to write a make-up test or similar at times which conflict with that student's other scheduled class times. If you are asked or 'required' to do this, you should immediately contact an academic counsellor in your dean's office. If you elect to miss a class to write such a test, that is **your** choice; your absence will not be excused.

Prerequisite(s): At least 65% in one of Writing 2101F/G, Writing 2125F/G, Writing 2111F/G, Writing 2130F/G or Writing 2131F/G; or at least 65% in one of Writing 1000F/G, Writing 1030F/G, or Writing 1031F/G; or at least 65% in each of MIT 1020E (or both of MIT 1021F/G and MIT 1022F/G) and MIT 1025F/G; or permission of the Department (consult the Undergraduate Program Director, Writing).

Scholastic Offences, including plagiarism: "Scholastic Offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, which can be found here:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage of text from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement currently Western and Turnitin.com <http://www.turnitin.com>.”

*You may not submit work you completed for another class for this class.

Academic Accommodation

Senate language requires all requests for accommodation for a grade component of **10% or more** to go to academic counselling. That same section, however, allows for (and encourages) instructors to deal directly with accommodation requests for grade components less than 10%. Here’s the relevant Senate language:

“Accommodation by Instructor for work worth less than 10% of the overall grade in a course:

Instructors are encouraged, in the first instance, to arrange participation requirements and multiple small assignments in such a way as to allow students some flexibility. A student seeking academic accommodation for any work worth less than 10% must contact the instructor or follow the appropriate Department or course specific instructions provided on the course outline.

In arranging accommodation, instructors will use good judgment and ensure fair treatment for all students. Instructors must indicate on the course outline how they will be dealing with work worth less than 10% of the total course grade. In particular, instructors must indicate whether medical documentation will be required for absences, late assignments or essays, missed tests, laboratory experiments or tutorials, etc. Where medical documentation is required, such documentation must be submitted by the student directly to the appropriate Faculty Academic Counselling/Dean’s office, who will make the determination whether accommodation is warranted. Given the University’s Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy (https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/general/privacy.pdf), **instructors may not collect medical documentation.”**

Medical Accommodation Policy

“The University recognizes that a student’s ability to meet their academic responsibilities may, on occasion, be impaired by medical illness. Illness may be acute (short term), or it may be chronic (long term), or chronic with acute episodes. The University further recognizes that medical situations are deeply personal and respects the need for privacy and confidentiality in these matters. However, in order to ensure fairness and consistency for all students, academic accommodation for work representing 10% or more of the student’s overall grade in the course shall be granted only in those cases where there is documentation indicating that the student was seriously affected by illness and could not reasonably be expected to meet their academic responsibilities.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the appropriate Dean’s office (the Office of the Dean of the student’s Faculty of registration/home Faculty) together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. These documents will be retained in the student’s file and will be held in confidence in accordance with the University’s Official Student Record Information Privacy Policy. Once the petition and supporting documents have been received and assessed, appropriate academic accommodation shall be determined by the Dean’s Office in consultation with the student’s instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance

requirements for classes/labs/tutorials, arranging Special Exams or Incompletes, re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawals without academic penalty. Academic accommodation shall be granted only where the documentation indicates that the onset, duration, and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete their academic responsibilities. (Note – it will not be sufficient to provide documentation indicating simply that the student “was seen for a medical reason” or “was ill.”)

Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, examinations, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and their Academic Counselling office in a timely manner.”

Documentation from Family Physicians/Nurse Practitioners and Walk-In Clinics

A Western Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is required where a student is seeking academic accommodation. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. An SMC can be downloaded at http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Documentation from Student Health Services

At the time of illness, students should make an appointment with a physician/nurse practitioner at Student Health Services. During this appointment, request a Student Medical Certificate from the Physician/Nurse Practitioner.

Documentation from Hospital Urgent Care Centres or Emergency Departments

Students should request that an SMC be filled out. Students may bring this form with them, or request alternative Emergency Department documentation. Documentation should be secured at the time of the initial visit to the Emergency Department. Where it is not possible for a student to have an SMC completed by the attending physician, the student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that their ability to meet their academic responsibilities was seriously affected.”

Please note that individual instructors **will not under any circumstances** accept or read medical documentation directly offered by a student, whether in support of an application for accommodation on medical grounds or for related reasons (e.g. to explain an absence from class which may result in a grade penalty under an ‘Attendance’ policy in the course). **All medical documentation must** be submitted to the Academic Counselling or Undergraduate office of a student’s home Faculty.

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic%20Accommodation_disabilities.pdf

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: (<https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help. Immediate help in the event of a crisis can be had by phoning 519-661-3030 (during class hours) or 519-433-2023 after class hours and on weekends.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays and should give reasonable notice in writing (email), prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Other Student Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>
Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>
Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>
Academic Support and Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Accessibility Statement

Please contact the course instructor if you require material in an alternate format or if you require any other arrangements to make this course more accessible to you. You may also wish to contact Accessible Education (AE) at 661-2111 x 82147 for any specific question regarding an accommodation or review [The policy on Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Correspondence Statement

The centrally administered **e-mail account** provided to students will be considered the individual's official university e-mail address. It is the responsibility of the account holder to ensure that e-mail received from the University at his/her official university address is attended to in a timely manner. You can read about the privacy and security of the UWO email accounts [here](#).

Turnitin and other similarity review software

All assignments will be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. Students will be able to view their results before the final submission. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between Western University and [Turnitin.com](#).

Arts and Humanities Academic Policies and Statements

Copyright and Audio/Video Recording Statement

Course material produced by faculty is copyrighted and to reproduce this material for any purposes other than your own educational use contravenes Canadian Copyright Laws. You must always ask permission to record another individual and you should never share or distribute recordings.

Rounding of Marks Statement

Across programs, we strive to maintain high standards that reflect the effort that both students and faculty put into the teaching and learning experience during this course. All students will be treated equally and evaluated based only on their actual achievement. **Final grades** on this course, irrespective of the number of decimal places used in marking individual assignments and tests, will be calculated to one decimal place and rounded to the nearest integer, e.g., 74.4 becomes 74, and 74.5 becomes 75. Marks WILL NOT be bumped to the next grade or GPA, e.g. a 79 will NOT be bumped up to an 80, an 84 WILL NOT be bumped up to an 85, etc. The mark attained is the mark you achieved, and the mark assigned; requests for mark "bumping" will be denied.