Information Sciences 572  
Young Adult Materials  
Summer 2019  
School of Information Sciences  
University of Tennessee  
Class Meetings: Tuesdays, 6:30 until 9:10 Eastern

Zoom ID:  
UTK Syllabus, Provost’s Office:  
http://tenntlc.utk.edu/the-syllabus/

S. Scot Smith, Instructor  
Office Hours: By Appointment  
Email: ssmith40@utk.edu  
Voice Mail: 865-425-9153  

450 Communications Bldg.  
1345 Circle Park Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37996-0341  
SIS Office: 865-974-2148  
Fax (SIS): 865-974-4667

Course Description:  
Critical survey of diverse young adult materials, for ages 13-18, in all formats and genres, including print, digital,  
and multimodal. Emphasis on evaluation, selection, and recreational or curricular use in school and public libraries.

Student Outcomes:  
During this course, the student will:

1. Develop an understanding of the characteristics, needs and interests of young adults at varying levels of maturity;

2. Show an understanding of the cultural, societal, academic, and economic influences on contemporary young  
adults and book publishing;

3. Demonstrate a familiarity with a broad range of materials for young adults and an acquaintance with important  
authors, awards, digital resources, and reading lists for this age level;

4. Apply principles of quality to literary works by critically evaluating books and other materials;

5. Demonstrate knowledge of principles and techniques for promoting and guiding teen reading, browsing, viewing,  
and listening;

6. Experiment with collection development, reader's advisory services, genre studies, curriculum support and  
research, information and media literacy, and the defense of challenged materials.

Course Design:  
The course uses an interactive active approach to teaching and learning. Students are required to complete all  
required readings, attend all class lectures, complete graded activities and assignments, and participate in all class  
activities, including discussion board assignments in Canvas and breakout groups in Zoom. All required novels are  
listed in this syllabus. Students will also be assigned readings and video and audio clips; those requirements will be  
linked from Canvas.
Required Readings
(The books are listed in the order they will be read.)
Tamaki, Mariko and Jillian. *This One Summer*. First Second, 2014.

The instructor will post on Canvas a weekly list of required and optional articles, videos, and/or audio files. These required readings and multimedia clips should be read/listened to/viewed before class on Tuesday. The required and optional readings and clips should be incorporated into the student’s written assignments.

Additional Readings
In addition to the required readings, students will read one non-fiction title, one challenged/banned book, one title selected from ALA's Best Fiction for Young Adults (BFYA) or YALSA Non-Fiction 2018 or 2019 lists and two reader's choices from the lists posted on Canvas. The instructor will provide extensive booklists from which students will make their selections. This represents a total of eleven books for this semester. *There will be no "double-dipping," meaning one book cannot be used for two assignments.* Students will also be required to watch two movies that have been marketed toward teens or that are about teens.

Communications
The instructor is required to communicate with students through students via their UTK email addresses. If a student prefers to use another address, that student should consult the OIT Helpdesk to obtain directions for forwarding UTK mail to the preferred email address. The instructor will return assignments through his UT email account.

Computing Requirements
Students must have adequate computing skills, including but not limited to use of Microsoft Word, web browsing, e-mail, listservs, Canvas, and Zoom software. Students must learn how to submit their assignments using Canvas. The *Office of Information Technology (OIT)* provides training classes in using varied technologies for students at no charge (advance registration is required). Students must have a working microphone in order to participate in the required breakout groups in Zoom.

Students must obtain a UT email account and subscribe to the SIS student listserv. In addition, students must have the PowerPoint Reader or the regular PowerPoint software installed on their computers in order to download the slides from Canvas.

Attendance
Class attendance is required. A portion of the final grade will be based on in-class participation during break out groups. Unexplained absences will affect the participation grade. A student should contact the instructor as soon as possible if he/she cannot attend class. If a student will be absent from class, he/she must:

- Inform the instructor in advance or as soon as possible after class
- Submit any work due from the missed class period
- Listen to the class recording archived on Office 365
- Check Canvas announcements, class notes, and discussions.

Acceptable reasons for absence from class include:

- Illness
- Serious family emergencies
• Special curricular or job requirements (judging trips, field trips, professional conferences)
• Military obligation
• Severe weather conditions
• Religious holidays
• Participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate
• Obligations for court imposed legal obligations (i.e., jury duty, subpoena)

Missing more than one class meeting for reasons other than those listed above will have a negative impact on the student’s course participation grade.

Inclement Weather
“The chancellor (or appointed representative) may officially close or suspend selected activities of the university because of extreme weather conditions. When a decision to close is made, information is distributed to the campus community, shared with local media, and posted on the front page at http://utk.edu. (Hilltopics, p. 55) (http://hilltopics.utk.edu/files/Hilltopics%202015-16.pdf). SIS will cancel classes when UT is closed. Please check the SIS student listserv (UTKSIS-L@LISTSERV.UTK.EDU) for messages about closing.

Disabilities that Constrain Learning
Students who may need course adaptations because of a disability are welcome to make an appointment to speak with the instructor. Students with disabilities must register with the STUDENT DISABILITY SERVICES, 2227 Dunford Hall, Knoxville, TN 37996-4020, before accommodations can be made. If you require course accommodations but have not contacted Student Disability Services, please call (865) 974-6087 or email SDS@UTK.EDU to inquire about the registration procedure.

Civility
Civility is genuine respect and regard for others: politeness, consideration, tact, good manners, graciousness, cordiality, affability, amiability and courteousness. Civility enhances academic freedom and integrity, and is a prerequisite to the free exchange of ideas and knowledge in the learning community. Our community consists of students, faculty, staff, alumni, and campus visitors. Community members affect each other’s well-being and have a shared interest in creating and sustaining an environment where all community members and their points of view are valued and respected. Affirming the value of each member of the university community, the campus asks that all its members adhere to the principles of civility and community adopted by the campus: http://civility.utk.edu/

CCI Diversity Statement
The College of Communication and Information recognizes that a college diverse in its people, curricula, scholarship, research, and creative activities expands opportunities for intellectual inquiry and engagement, helps students develop critical thinking skills, and prepares students for social and civic responsibilities. All members of the College benefit from diversity and the quality of learning, research, scholarship and creative activities is enhanced by a climate of inclusion, understanding and appreciation of differences and the full range of human experience. As a result, the College is committed to diversity and equal opportunity and it recognizes that it must represent the diversity inherent in American society. The College is acutely aware that diversity and fairness are foundations that unite the College’s faculty, staff, students, and the larger communication and information community.

Instructor Status as a Title IX Mandatory Reporter
University of Tennessee faculty are committed to supporting our students and upholding gender equity laws as outlined by Title IX. Please be aware that if you choose to confide in a faculty member regarding an issue of sexual misconduct, dating violence, or stalking, we are obligated to inform the University’s Title IX Coordinator, who can assist you in connecting with all possible resources both on- and off-campus. If you would like to speak with someone confidentially, the Student Counseling Center (865-974-2196) and the Student Health Center (865-974-3135) are both confidential resources.
For additional resources and information, visit titleix.utk.edu.

**Academic Integrity**

Students should be familiar and maintain their *Academic Integrity* described in http://hilltopics.utk.edu/files/Hilltopics%202015-16.pdf, p. 15 as: “Study, preparation and presentation should involve at all times the student’s own work, unless it has been clearly specified that work is to be a team effort. Academic honesty requires that the student present his or her own work in all academic projects, including tests, papers, homework, and class presentation. When incorporating the work of other scholars and writers into a project, the student must accurately cite the source of that work.”

Students should abide by the *Honor Statement* described in the same Hilltopics, p. 73:

“An essential feature of The University of Tennessee is a commitment to maintaining an atmosphere of intellectual integrity and academic honesty. As a student of the University, I pledge that I will neither knowingly give nor receive any inappropriate assistance in academic work, thus affirming my own personal commitment to honor and integrity.”

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism in any of its several forms is intolerable, and attention to matters of documentation in all written work is expected and required. Inadverrence, alleged lack of understanding, or avowed ignorance of the various types of plagiarism are not acceptable excuses.

**Specific examples of plagiarism are:**

1. Copying without proper documentation (quotation marks and a citation) written or spoken words, phrases, or sentences from any source (including book reviews);
2. Summarizing without proper documentation (usually a citation) ideas from another source (unless such information is recognized as common knowledge);
3. Borrowing facts, statistics, graphs, pictorial representations, or phrases without acknowledging the source (unless such information is recognized as common knowledge);
4. Collaborating on a graded assignment without the instructor’s approval;
5. Submitting work, either in whole or in part, created by a professional service and used without attribution (e.g., paper, speech, bibliography, or photograph).

Students who may be unsure of the nature of plagiarism should consult the instructor or a guide for writing research reports.

Infractions of academic integrity are penalized according to the severity of the infraction but may include failure of the course.

**Assignments and Grading**

Student work is assigned a grade based on the quality of critical thinking, writing style, meaningful use of required resources, appropriateness of length, fulfillment of the assignment’s expectations, and creativity. Only exceptional work will receive an "A" grade. Papers submitted after the due date will be assigned a lower grade than would otherwise be received. All assignments will be graded according to specific rubrics. The instructor will post the grading rubrics on Canvas alongside the assignments. The instructor will return all assignments via UTK email and will post grades onto Canvas.
Preparation of Written Work

In those assignments that require citations and bibliographies, students may use whatever style manual with which they are most comfortable. The instructor requests that the student remains consistent throughout the assignment (do not switch from citation style to another within the same assignment).

All sources must be cited, quotations must be in quotation marks and attributed correctly unless otherwise noted. Not doing so constitutes plagiarism.

Late Work

The instructor does accept late work. However, he will assess a penalty if a student misses the submission deadline by more than several hours. Typically, the penalty is three points per day, not to exceed 10% of that assignment’s grade. If a student knows he/she will miss a deadline, that student should email the instructor with an explanation. In most cases, the instructor will work with the student to minimize the effect of late penalty.

EVALUATION

Semester grades will be assigned according to the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Score Range</th>
<th>Points Per Credit Hour</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-90</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-88.75</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>88-83</td>
<td>3.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-80</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-78</td>
<td>2.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-70</td>
<td>2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-60</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-59.75</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>59.75 or above</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>(no grade)</td>
<td>(no grade)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S/NC</td>
<td>(credit hours, no points)</td>
<td>(S = B or better, NC = no credit)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P/NP</td>
<td>(credit hours, no points)</td>
<td>(P = thesis progress, NP = no progress)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>(credit hours, no points)</td>
<td>(W = withdrew)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The number of Satisfactory/No Credit courses in a student’s program is limited to one-fourth of the total credit hours required.
ASSIGNMENTS: DESCRIPTION
This table provides a brief summary of assignment names, due dates, and grade distribution. More detailed descriptions of each assignment follow the table.

This table identifies the MSIS Program Outcome(s) addressed in course assignment(s):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>MSIS Program Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collection Development Exercise</td>
<td>Assess and implement information technologies, systems, sources and services that serve users effectively and efficiently.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenged Book Essay</td>
<td>Apply the general principles, values, and ethical standards of providing information services in a variety of settings and for diverse populations.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Identify critical professional issues in a variety of organizational, cultural, societal, disciplinary, transdisciplinary, and historical contexts.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>MSIS Program Outcome</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading Responses</td>
<td>410</td>
<td>June 22, July 6, July 28, August 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Booktalks</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>June 25, July 9, July 16</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Movie Responses + Discussion Board Posts</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>July 6, August 9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collection Development Exercise</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>July 20</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Challenged Book Essay</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>August 4</td>
<td>3, 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance / Class Participation</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>Semester long</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>1000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Students will submit their assignments via Canvas. All papers will be graded electronically and will be returned to students through the instructor’s email account. Students are required to write their papers with Microsoft Word. 11:30 p.m. is the deadline for submissions unless otherwise noted; work submitted after that time is considered late and will be penalized. Students will post their written booktalks / movie discussions onto the Discussion Board before the class during which they are due.
Assignment Descriptions

1) Complete one collection development exercise (assessment will be based on criteria offered by the instructor). Worth 14%

2) Students will write and present three booktalks—a newly published book—2018 or 2019 Best Fiction for Young Adults or 2018-2019 YALSA Non-fiction finalists and two reader's choices from any of the class lists during the course of the term. The written booktalks combined with the presentation are worth 12% of the final grade.

3) Students will write reading responses for all six required novels. They will also write responses for a non-fiction/biography/memoir. Worth 41%

4) Students will watch and respond to two feature films marketed to teens. The responses will be submitted on Canvas. There will also be a graded discussion board post for this assignment. The students will discuss the films during breakout groups. The movies will be realistic and fantasy/science fiction and will be selected from lists posted on Canvas. Worth 10%

5) Students will read a challenged/banned book (A list will be provided by the instructor) and then write an essay—(5-6 pages)—stating whether or not the book is appropriate for the library it is in. Worth 18%

6) Participation and attendance--The instructor will give ample opportunity for students to interact with one another both during class through Breakout Groups in Zoom and the Discussion Board feature. Meaningful participation in the discussion forums is expected. Worth 5%

Incompletes
Based on adopted University of Tennessee-Knoxville and SIS policy, a grade of I (Incomplete) is reserved for emergencies that prevent the student from completing the course on time. Incompletes are granted only under "the most unusual of circumstances" and solely at the discretion of the instructor. Plan your semester’s course of study carefully to insure sufficient time to complete the required work. For students who simply "disappear" without contacting the instructor and without completing the required form, an "F" is submitted.

Course Evaluation
Students will be invited to evaluate the course at the end of the term. Please participate in this valuable process. The instructor also invites comments throughout the course and will read all comments, suggestions, and recommendations.

Disclaimer
The instructor reserves the right to make minor changes to the syllabus throughout the semester. The instructor will notify students when/if there is a change.
Course Outline

**June 4**
Introduction to and Characteristics of Young Adult Literature
Landmarks of YA Literature
Major Awards
Best Books of 2017, 2018, and 2019 (so far)

**June 11**
Introduction to Teen Culture
Adolescent Psychology
Reader Response Theory
Humor in YA Literature
Booktalking

**June 18**
Literature in the Lives of Teens
Literary Elements and Definitions of Quality
Graphic Novels
Intro to Modern Realism in YA Literature
*Read* Mariko and Jillian Tamaki’s *This One Summer* & Laurie Halse Anderson’s and Emily Carroll’s *Speak: The Graphic Novel*
**Due: Saturday, June 22, Reading Responses for Speak: The Graphic Novel and This One Summer**

**June 25**
Modern Realism in Books (Continued) and Films
New Adult Literature
Introduction to Media Literacy
*Read* John Green’s *Looking for Alaska*
**Due: BFYA/YALSA Non-fiction Booktalk**

**July 2**
Non-Fiction
Biographies/Memoir
Informational Series
Young Adults and Information Literacy
Book Review Sources
Magazines for Teens
**Due: Discussion Board Post / Class discussion of modern realistic film**
**Due: Saturday, July 6 Response for modern realistic film & reading response for Looking for Alaska**
July 9
Books in a Series
Science Fiction for Teens
Read Neal Shusterman’s *Scythe*
Due: Reader’s Choice Booktalk #1

July 16
Fantasy for Teens
Science Fiction and Fantasy films for teens
Due: Reader’s Choice Booktalk #2
Due Saturday, July 20: Collection Development Exercise

July 23
Mysteries for teens
Historical Fiction
Challenged Books
Read Elizabeth Wein’s *Code Name Verity*
Due: Saturday, July 28—Reading Responses for *Scythe*, *Code Name Verity*, and a non-fiction title.

July 30
Short Story Collections
Digital Collections
Introduction to Programming for Young Adults
Reaching the Reluctant Reader
Due: Saturday, August 3, Challenged Book Essay

August 6
Audiobooks for teens
Poetry/Novels in Verse
Literature of Diversity
Read Jason Reynolds’s *Long Way Down*
Due: Discussion Board Post / Class discussion of sci-fi/fantasy film
Due on Friday, August 9: Reading response for *Long Way Down* and viewing response for sci-fi/fantasy film.