



**BAKER COLLEGE**  
**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

**LIT4050 Young Adult Literature**  
**3 Semester Hours**

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**Student Learning Outcomes & Enabling Objectives**

1. Distinguish the defining characteristics of young adult literature
  - a. Assess how the application of literary elements (characterization, description, point of view, setting and atmosphere, and plot and structure) define young adult literature
  - b. Analyze the age group classifications within young adult literature
  - c. Explore the history of young adult literature
2. Examine the canon of young adult literature
  - a. Develop a framework for what constitutes “quality” young adult literature
  - b. Research prominent authors of young adult literature
  - c. Read exemplar young adult texts that reflect diverse cultures, subcultures, and/or contexts, representing contemporary issues and points of view
  - d. Establish the purpose(s) of young adult literature
  - e. Appraise the place of classic literature within the canon of young adult literature
3. Evaluate sub-genres common to YA literature
  - a. Identify important sub-genres and their key features, including but not limited to:
    - i. Contemporary Realistic Fiction
    - ii. Fantasy/Folklore
    - iii. Science Fiction (Utopias and Dystopias)
    - iv. Poetry
    - v. Adventures, Westerns, Sports, and Mysteries
    - vi. Historical Fiction
    - vii. Nonfiction, Biography, Autobiography, Memoir
    - viii. Graphic novels
    - ix. Verse Novels
    - x. Short Stories
  - b. Compare and contrast genres and their identifying features
4. Analyze dominant themes in young adult literature including but not limited to:
  - a. Community vs individual reliance/isolation vs, conformity
  - b. Self-discovery/identity
  - c. Morality
  - d. Coming of age
  - e. Sexual identity
  - f. Spirituality
5. Interpret the complex issues regarding censorship in relation to young adult literature

- a. Identify frequently challenged and banned books
  - b. Examine reasons for challenges of books
  - c. Explore judicial decisions in cases of challenged books
  - d. Compare constitutional rights to challenges of free speech as it relates to books and reading
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## Big Ideas and Essential Questions

### Big Ideas

- Defining characteristics
- Purposes
- Major authors and texts
- Diversity/multiculturalism
- Genre/sub-genres, themes, literary devices
- Development of identity and voice
- Censorship

### Essential Questions

1. What are the defining characteristics of young adult literature?
2. What are the dominant themes in YA literature and how can the consistence of these themes be explained?
3. What is the appeal of specific sub-genres readers of young adult literature?
4. How is YA literature distinguished from Children's literature and from Adult literature in the age group and purposes served?
5. Why some have YA texts been prone to censorship and what is the relationship to constitutional freedoms?
6. How do the designations of classic literature and popular literature complicate discussions of canonical YA literature?
7. How does YA literature challenge or reinforce historical narratives of race, gender, and culture, and what effect does this have on readers?

These SLOs are not approved for experiential credit.

**Effective: Fall 2017**