Course Overview: The trials and tribulations of adolescence have long served as the central focus for myriad authors and filmmakers. In this course we will closely analyze contemporary literature and film made for adults, but concerned primarily with the teenage experience. For the first eight weeks, we will read two novels and watch two feature films, and then you will select the final books or films for reading and viewing for our last two weeks of class. We will examine why the teenage years serve as such a preoccupation for so many authors and auteurs, and look at what these depictions tell us about not only our culture’s view of adolescence but also of itself, as a whole.

Some questions we will examine are: What do these depictions of teenage life say about our culture’s notions of childhood and adulthood? What do coming of age stories tell us about the particular values of our society? And, importantly, what cultural mores, moralities, fears or ambivalences are projected through these portrayals of teenage life?

Course Objectives: By the end of this course, you will not only have improved your understanding of the use of adolescence in contemporary film and literature, you will also be able to critically analyze both written and visual texts. You will be able to devise your own arguments and offer support for those arguments. You will be able to effectively participate in and facilitate course discussions, as well as engage in online discussions. In short, you will leave this course with competency in the key elements needed for success in the college classroom.

Required Texts/Materials: 
Books:
Nick Dybek, When Captain Flint Was Still a Good Man, Riverhead Books, 2012
Lorrie Moore, Who Will Run the Frog Hospital? Vintage, 2004
Films:
Harold and Maude, dir. Hal Ashby, 1971
The Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love, dir. Maria Maggenti, 1995

One additional book and one additional movie determined by you in Week 4.

Films are required texts. You will need to watch them outside of class at least twice. You can do this through the Reserve copies at the library, or through rentals from places such as Blockbuster, or through online rental or purchase from such services as Amazon Instant Video.

All books are available at the University Bookstore. All books and films are on Reserve at the Knight library.

Course Assignments: Along with active participation in all discussions, the course requirements are:
- Two two-page papers analyzing pairs of books and movies
- A final 3-4 page paper analyzing a final book or movie in relation to previous books or movies
- Participation in five online discussion board conversations
- Participation in one peer review
- In the first eight weeks, discussion leader responsibilities for fifteen minutes of one
In the last two weeks, discussion leader responsibilities for one half of one class (40 minutes) on a student-chosen book or movie

**Paper formatting:** For all papers, the margins should be standard margins in Microsoft Word. The font should be 12-point Times New Roman. Your name, the course, the assignment type, and the date should be single-spaced at the top of the left-hand corner on the first page. The remainder of the document should be double-spaced. There should be no line breaks between the title and the start of the essay or between paragraphs. Failure to adhere to these guidelines will result in an incomplete paper.

**Participation:** Active participation is necessary for this course to succeed. This includes speaking in large and small groups and facilitating discussions. If speaking in a group is difficult for you, come see me early in the term to discuss strategies for participation.

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory. You are expected to show up on time and prepared for every class. You are allowed two absences. Each unexcused absence after the first two will result in the final course grade being lowered by one half. I do not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences.

If you must be absent, you are responsible for turning in all assignments by the start of the missed class session. Assignments will not be accepted via email. They must be turned into the classroom or 124 PLC. You are also responsible for any homework assigned on the day of your absence. It is your responsibility to find out about missed assignments from classmates, Miriam or Blackboard.

**A Note about Movies:** In this course, film and literature will both be treated as text. That is to say, both will be read closely and carefully. The first viewing is for absorbing overall content. A second viewing is required to more closely examine the details of the story and production.

**Late Assignments:** Late work will not be accepted.

**Grading:**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Online discussion board conversations</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Discussion leader responsibilities – 15 minutes</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer Review</td>
<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Analysis Papers 1 &amp; 2</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Final Analysis Paper</td>
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<td>Facilitation of Final Unit text – 40 minutes</td>
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**Plagiarism:** All work submitted in this course must be your own and be written exclusively for this course.

**Access for Students with Disabilities:** If you have a disability (physical or learning) which you think may affect your performance in this class, please see me during the first week of the term so we can discuss whatever accommodation may be necessary.

**Blackboard:** All discussion boards, assignments, course documents and information are available on Blackboard website. If you have trouble accessing Blackboard site, contact Computing Center at 346-4412.
**Tentative Course Schedule**

The schedule is subject to change. All assignments are DUE on the date they appear.

**Week 1**

- **4/2** Syllabus & Intro
- **4/4** Critical Analysis of Film: Opening of *Boyz n the Hood*
  - Begin Watching *Harold and Maude*
  
  **NOTE:** YOU NEED TO COMPLETE WATCHING *HAROLD AND MAUDE* ON YOUR OWN BEFORE MONDAY’S BLACKBOARD POST.

**Week 2**

- **4/9** *Harold and Maude*: discussion
  - Copy of *Harold and Maude* discussion board postings due (Original discussion board question, answer and responses due on Blackboard before the start of class. Consult Blackboard for details.)
- **4/11** *Harold and Maude*: Discussion
  - Discussion Leader Group 1
  
  *When Captain Flint Was Still a Good Man*, CH 1 (1-41)

**Week 3**

- **4/16** *Captain Flint*, CH 2-5 (43-148)
  - Copy of *Captain Flint* discussion board postings due (Original discussion board question, answer and responses due on Blackboard before the start of class. Consult Blackboard for details.)
  - Discussion Leader Group 2
- **4/18** *Captain Flint* CH 6-half of 7 (149-break on 205)
  - Discussion Leader Group 3

**Week 4**

- **4/23** *Captain Flint* CH 7-10 (205-306)
  - Preparation for Analysis Paper #1
  - Final Unit Selection Sheet due
- **4/25** Analysis Paper #1
  - Final Unit Selection
  
  **NOTE:** YOU NEED TO WATCH *THE INCREDIBLY TRUE ADVENTURES OF TWO GIRLS IN LOVE* ON YOUR OWN BEFORE MONDAY’S BLACKBOARD POST.
Week 5
4/30  *Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love: Discussion*

*Copy of Incredibly True discussion board postings due* (Original discussion board question, answer and responses due on Blackboard *before the start of class.* Consult Blackboard for details.)

**Final Unit Delegation of Duties**

5/2  *Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love: Discussion*

Discussion Leader Group 4

Week 6
5/7  *Who Will Run the Frog Hospital? (1-68)*

5/9  *Who Will Run the Frog Hospital? (69-99)*

**Discussion Leader Group 5**

*Copy of Frog Hospital discussion board postings due* (Original discussion board question, answer and responses due on Blackboard *before the start of class.* Consult Blackboard for details.)

Week 7
5/14  *Who Will Run the Frog Hospital? (99-148)*

Discussion Leader Group 6

5/16  **Analysis Paper #2**

Preparation for Final Presentations

Week 8
5/21  *Final Movie (TBD by class)*

**Group A presentation**

**Group B presentation**

*Copy of Final Unit discussion board postings due* (Original discussion board question, answer and responses due on Blackboard *before the start of class.* Consult Blackboard for details.)

5/23  *Final Movie*

**Group C presentation**

Preparation for Analysis Paper #3

Week 9
5/28  *Final Book (TBD by class)*

**Group D presentation**

**Group E presentation**

5/30  *Final Book*

**Group F presentation**

Preparation for Final Analysis Paper #3
Week 10

6/4  Analysis Paper #3 peer review (bring 2 copies)

6/6  Wrap-up

Analysis Paper 3 due