

Uncommon Reads: 13 Reasons Why

IDH 2930-1C16

Tuesdays, Little Hall 117, 5th Period (11:45-12:35)

Instructors:

Lead Instructor: Brittany DiCaprio, Honors Program, Department of Psychology/Criminology

Email: dicapriob@ufl.edu

Co-Instructor: Dr. R. Morgan Pigg, Jr. Professor Emeritus, Department of Health Education and Behavior

rmpigg@hhp.ufl.edu

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The book "Thirteen Reasons Why" by Jay Asher explores the tapes left behind by Hannah Baker after she tragically commits suicide and attempts to contact those who caused it. This book deals with topics such as suicide, sexual assault, bullying, mental health, and social pressures in an honest depiction of the life and death of a young girl. This class will explore the shaming culture, emotional/social intelligence, and what we can do as young adults to change the way we treat others. With the help of the newly produced TV show based on the book, the novel, and discussions in class, students will discover just how important it is to face these topics head on and have the difficult conversations about how we can be better as humans and explore our empathy and humanity. This class will answer the questions, "Why was this book so controversial and how can we be the change we hope to see?"

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students who successfully complete this course will gain a better appreciation of (at least) three main areas:

- What can we do to change the conversation about the topics in this book does mental health materialize in our society and how does that stigma affect the treatment of it?
- How is this book related to our college community?
- What can we do to change the conversation about the topics in this book
- How do we affect the ones around us?

REQUIRED TEXTS

13 Reasons Why by Jay Asher, no specific version

Access to Netflix or Youtube for media clips

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Attendance is not mandatory but highly encouraged. Both the lead instructor and co instructor reserve the right to have attendance checks randomly throughout the semester.

If you cannot attend class email the instructor beforehand. Please abide by the University of Florida attendance and excuse policies that are listed below in the syllabus.

This is an excerpt from the University of Florida attendance policy:

“In general, acceptable reasons for absence from or failure to participate in class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays, and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Other reasons also may be approved.”

Office Hours: I am happy to meet with you to discuss course business or other matters. Schedule an appointment day and time to make sure I am available. I prefer that you contact me by email, then we will set a specific day and time for your appointment. You also may request appointments in person, or by regular mail, email, or telephone.

COURSE POLICIES

Special Accommodations: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Disability Resource Center at University of Florida Dean of Students Office, see <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/getstarted.php>
(Links to an external site.)

Links to an external site.

. The Dean of Students Office will review the case and, if appropriate, provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

Attendance: I expect you to attend class and participate in all course activities. If you cannot attend class, please let me know in advance if possible, or as soon as feasible. Requirements for class attendance and make-up work are consistent with University policies found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Participation: You are expected to come to class on time, prepared, and ready to participate. Your participation will contribute to the learning of your fellow classmates. A significant percentage of your grade will be determined by your participation. You will be able to get more out of the class if you are asking questions and discussing with the class.

**Due to the sensitive topics and graphic nature of some of the chapters, if there is a specific topic that is too painful to discuss you may email me to let me know not to reduce your participation.

Late Assignments: If you are unable to turn in an assignment on time, please contact me **BEFOREHAND** to discuss alternatives. Unfortunately, in this class late assignments will not be accepted unless it has been approved by the University and their policies.

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work are consistent with university policies that can be found at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Computer Use: Please be advised that laptops are allowed in this class. Take notes on whatever you feel is interesting or useful.

The use of a computer is recommended to find outside sources in order to tie in the material that we discuss in class.

Classroom Climate: Equitable participation in this class requires the use of inclusive language, methods, and materials. Students are expected to use inclusive language in written and oral work, and to respect viewpoints expressed by others. At the same time, students are encouraged to identify language, methods, and materials used in this course that do not contribute to an inclusive classroom climate.

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

Academic Integrity and the UF Honor Code: All students at the University of Florida are expected to adhere fully to University of Florida Student Honor Code, view at: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

(Links to an external site.)

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. The Honor Code outlines the expectations for student conduct in regard to academic honesty. All students should review this policy. The policy places full responsibility on students to know and adhere to these standards for academic integrity. All examinations, quizzes, projects, and assignments are subject to this policy. Maintaining strict academic integrity is a priority; all instructors will fully enforce the UF Honor Code in their classes.

University Honesty Policy: UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduct-honor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Incomplete Grades: An incomplete grade is described in the Undergraduate Catalog. It is the instructors' discretion as to what extenuating circumstances warrant adequate excuse for not completing required course work.

Course Evaluations: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>

(Links to an external site.)

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COURSE ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING: This class meets once a week for 50 minutes. All students attend regularly, participate enthusiastically, thoughtfully and read all required assignments carefully.

Counseling and Wellness Center: Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Students Requiring Accommodations: Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Assignments: The course could include 3 assignments: Each student will: (1) take responsibility for summarizing content and leading initial class discussion about one side of one cassette, such as introducing Cassette 1, Side A. (2) write a paper sharing personal feelings about the book; how the book affected them as an individual; impact of suicide in their lives, and in the lives of family and friends, etc. (3) prepare a paper (or an individual presentation, or small group presentation) on suicide prevention measures for children and adolescents at the individual, school, and community levels.

Mid Semester Reflection: As the semester and the book progress, prepare a reflection paper that details your 13 Reasons Why NOT. This is a personal reflection and each student will have different interpretations and responses to this. However, the criterion is a 500 word reflection outlining the students 13 Reasons Why Not. These 13 Reasons should reflect 13 reasons why life is worth living. This reflection should be double spaced, typed, with your name and course code in the upper right hand corner.

Final Project: Prepare a critique of about 1,000 words that details your assessment of the nature, extent, and implications of the issues identified in the book. Write the critique based on your own life experiences and personal impressions of the book. Give your candid assessment of the book, both positive and negative. You decide how to structure your paper in terms of content, organization, style, and tone. Note: For your critique, please submit: (1) a cover sheet with the book title, your name, the course (IDH 2930), and semester/year; and (2) a typed, double-spaced, critique of about 1,000 words. Staple the materials in the upper-left corner, with the cover sheet on top. (Do not use folders, binders, report covers, or notebooks.)

Grade Breakdown:

Attendance and Participation	50%
Final Presentation	25%
Mid Semester Reflection	25%

Grade Breakdown:

Score	Percent	Grade	Grade Points
934-1000	93.4-100	A	4.00
900-933	90.0-93.3	A-	3.67
867-899	86.7-89.9	B+	3.33
834-866	83.4-86.6	B	3.00
800-833	80.0-83.3	B-	2.67
767-799	76.7-79.9	C+	2.33
734-766	73.4-76.6	C	2.00
700-733	70.0-73.3	C-	1.67
667-699	66.7-69.9	D+	1.33
634-666	63.4-66.6	D	1.00
600-633	60.0-63.3	D-	0.67
0-599	0-599	E	0.00

WEEKLY SCHEDULE:

Week	Topic
Week 1	Introduction and Syllabus HW: Read Prologue, Yesterday One Hour After School
Week 2	Prologue, One Hour After School Hw: Read Cassette 1:Side A
Week 3	Cassette 1: Side A HW: Cassette 1: Side B
Week 4	Cassette 1: Side B HW: Cassette 2: Side A
Week 5	Cassette 2: Side A HW: Cassette 2: Side B
Week 6	Cassette 2: Side B HW: Cassette 3: Side A
Week 7	Cassette 3: Side A HW: Cassette 3: Side B

Week 8	Cassette 3: Side B HW: Cassette 4: Side A Mid Semester Reflection Due
Week 9	Cassette 4: Side A HW: Cassette 4: Side B
Week 10	Cassette 4: Side B HW: Cassette 5: Side A
Week 11	Cassette 5: Side A HW: Cassette 5: Side B
Week 12	Cassette 5: Side B HW: Cassette 6: Side A
Week 13	Cassette 6: Side A HW: Cassette 6: Side B
Week 14	Cassette 6: Side B HW: Cassette 7: Side A
Week 15	Cassette 7: Side A HW: Cassette 7: Side B, The Next Day Final Project Due
Week 16	Cassette 7: Side B and The Next Day

****This is subject to change at the Instructors discretion. Students will be notified if any changes are made to the course schedule**

“Don't forget, its the little things that matter”