

the perks of being a wallflower
being different in a way that makes sense
university of florida honors program



kristY sPear

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being different in a way that makes sense

Thursday 9:35-10:25 a.m.
Hume Classroom 119

Required reading: *Perks of being a Wallflower*, Stephen Chbosky
and other resources and articles provided by the instructors

August 27, 2015

Dear friend,

The coming of age for adolescents as we journey into young adulthood can be a trying time. Entering college - namely the University of Florida - can be challenging for many people for a variety of reasons, including: social identities, family histories, and previous high school experiences. In *Perks*, Charlie writes a series of letters that tell his story to an unnamed reader as he navigates his own coming of age tale. This class will serve to challenge and support you as you begin to write your own stories in your first semester at UF.

Our goals are to have you explore how your unique identities and life experiences have shaped you into the individual you are today, understand how those around you have been shaped differently, and contemplate how to move forward in your college careers and lives with this new-found self-awareness and awareness of others.

Please believe that things are good with us, and even when they're not, they will be soon enough.

And we will believe the same about you.

Love always,
Kristy

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assignments

attendance

Due: Every class

Value: 28 points (2 points/class)

Attendance is mandatory. Excused absences include: Religious holidays; Medical emergencies; Family emergencies. Participation in class is imperative. If you cannot attend, you are expected to notify your instructor(s) prior to class.

mix tape presentation

Due: Throughout the semester

Value: 12 points

Choose one song that makes you feel infinite and give a short presentation on what that song means to you. Explain any special significance the song holds for you and what emotions the song evokes in you. Be prepared to play the song for the class.

group scene rewrite

Due: 11/05

Value: 20 points

In groups you will decide on one scene in either the book or movie to rewrite. Choose something to change about the scene – for example, a character's race, gender, sexuality, location, etc. – and then explain how and why what you changed impacted the scene. This project includes two parts:

REWRITE. Your group will either shoot a video depiction of the altered scene or write a revised book chapter. Videos must be at least three minutes long and book chapters must be at least five pages.

REFLECTION PRESENTATION. Your group will give a ten-minute presentation of the rewrite, detailing your alteration choice. The presentation should demonstrate your intentionality with the decision you made and explain why you believe what you changed in the scene resulted in what you portrayed in the rewrite.

journal responses

Due: 9/17, 9/24, 10/1. 10/8

Value: 20 points (5 points each)

After reading each part of *Perks* you will respond to one of Charlie's letters written to his anonymous reader during that part. There will be four journal responses in total. Please make your letters to Charlie as true to your voice as possible. Be as conversational as you want but maintain proper grammar and avoid textspeak.

When deciding which letter to respond to, let the following questions guide your selection:

What major development in Charlie's life or relationships took place in this letter? Is this development in Charlie's life similar or different than your own experience? Do you identify with Charlie or someone else mentioned in the letter? Can you empathize with them?

final reflection paper

Due: 12/3

Value: 20 points

In at least 3 pages, discuss what you have learned throughout this semester. Draw on class discussion and personal experience. Let the following questions guide your reflection: What identities make up you? Which of those identities do you think most about? Which ones do you think less about? Why? How do you handle difference, diversity, and multiculturalism? Are you different in a way that makes sense? How?

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course schedule

date	topic	deLiveraBles
August 27	course overview	
September 3	introductions	
September 10	part 1	reading:part 1
September 17	part 2	reading:part 2, journal entry
September 24	part 3	reading:part 3, journal entry
October 1	part 4	reading:part 4 & ep, journal entry
October 8	book discussion	journal entry
October 15	movie	
October 22	movie	
October TBD	field trip	rocky horror at the hippodrome
October 29	book v. movie	
November 5	presentations	group scene rewrite presentations
November 12	special topics	
November 19	special topics	
December 3	special topics	final reflection paper

grades

93-100 (A); 90-92 (A-); 87-89 (B+); 83-86 B;
80-82 (B-); 77-79 (C+); 73-76 (C); 70-72 (C-);
67-69 (D+); 63-66 (D); 60-62 (D-); 59 or below (E)
A grade of (I)ncomplete will not be issued under
any circumstance.

