

IHGC 3559 American Youth and Film**Eliza Fox** ebf2px@virginia.edu**Brandon Walsh** bmw9t@virginia.edu**Course meeting** R 6:00-7:15, New Cabell 042; screening times TBD**Office Hours** Brandon: T 9:00 - 11:00, Alderman library

Eliza: T 10:00 - 12:00, W 2:00 - 3:00, Alderman library

Note: B&E's shared office hour: T 10:00-11:00

Description:

This seminar focuses on post-WWII American films made about or for teenagers and adolescents. The changing conceptions of aging, maturity, and American identity on screen form the crux of our discussion, and the course explores these topics in relation to race and rituals of belonging, sexuality and body horror, and the commodification of youth and American identity.

Course requirements:

As this is a one-credit course, your primary obligations will be attendance, participation, and three very short responses of a couple sentences to films or readings under discussion during the semester. Secondary readings will total approximately 30 pp. per week.

Films:

We will view a film for each decade starting with the 1950's. We have picked the first four films, and we want you to choose our final two films from the 90's and 00's. We'll vote once the course gets rolling. Candidates:

90's - *Bill and Ted's Bogus Journey* (1991), *Boys N the Hood* (1991), *Clueless* (1995), *Ten Things I Hate About You* (1999), *American Pie* (1999), *Cruel Intentions* (1999), *Election* (1999), *Varsity Blues* (1999)

00's - *The Virgin Suicides* (2000), *Mean Girls* (2004), *Brick* (2005), *Superbad* (2007), *American Teen* (2008), *Easy A* (2010), *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World* (2010), *21 Jump Street* (2012), *Pitch Perfect* (2012), *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* (2012)

Course schedule:

January 16th - Introductions, information, etc.

January 23rd - *The Wild One* (1953), excerpt from "[Leo Brady's "No Body's Perfect: Method Acting & 50s Culture"](#)"; Thomas Hine, "The Teen Age"; excerpt from Grace Palladino's "The Perils of Prosperity"

January 30th - *West Side Story* (1961), "[How Movies 'Play it Cool' Through Music and Dance](#)"; excerpt from Roxanne Schroeder-Arce's "Representations of Latino/as in Musical Theater and Theater for Young Audiences;" Thomas Hine's "Boom and Aftershocks" Part I

February 6 - *Carrie* (1976), "[FAQ: What is the 'male gaze'?](#)", "[A Little Female Gaze](#)"; excerpt from Liz Frost, "Adolescence and Body Hatred"; excerpt from Murray Milner, Jr., Introduction to *Freaks, Geeks, and Cool Kids*; Thomas Hine, "Boom and Aftershocks" Part II

February 13th - *The Breakfast Club* (1985), excerpt from "[The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception](#)"; Dan Morgan, "Coming of Age in the 80s," parts 1-7

February 20th - Double feature 90's and 00's, readings TBD. Class party.