

Course Description for Children's Literature M50 course for Spring 2022

CRN 17847 ENGL 3401.M50

Study of children's literature through reading, discussion, and writing about history, characteristics, and authors of its major genres. PREREQUISITE: ENGL 1010,1020, 2201 or 2202 with a "C-" or better, or their equivalent.

3.000 Credit hours

3.000 Lecture hours

Offered by Dr. Cohoon

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PT Hall 110

901.428.8504

Spring 2022 Virtual Office hours MW 10:30-11, and by appointment (email to set up)

This course is a survey of children's literature. You will be introduced to authors and texts that have defined the field of children's literature. You will discuss children's books and write about how children's literature shapes and reflects cultural ideas about children and childhood. You will develop knowledge of children's books and children's authors and illustrators, and you will learn about the history of children's literature as well as contemporary issues in the field of children's literature and demonstrate this knowledge in discussions, exams and quizzes, presentations, and papers.

Course Goals

By the end of the course, successful participants will have done and be able to continue to do the following:

- Read multiple children's literature texts and respond to them in papers, projects, discussions, and quizzes and develop critical thinking skills by writing about and discussing children's literature.

- Demonstrate familiarity with a variety of approaches to children's literature and resources that will enhance the study of children's literature, including scholarly journals and book review journals by referring to these approaches and resources in papers, exams, and bibliographies.
- Identify features and express ideas about textual, visual, and design elements of picture books, storybooks, and illustrated chapter books by writing papers and responses, and developing presentations related to illustration and picturebooks.
- Recount key details of biographies of authors and illustrators of children's texts and/or key details of the context of children's texts, identify significant projects of authors and illustrators, and discuss how biographical, cultural, and historical contexts shape children's texts in papers, responses, and presentations and plan, create, and put into practice strategies for teaching and sharing children's literature by designing presentations, activities, and discussions about children's texts.
- Explore how children's literature and definitions of childhood are connected. Explore and critique how children's literature and definitions of childhood shape cultural ideas about children's cognitive, social, and emotional development by writing about and sharing ideas about children as readers and audiences for specific texts and by exploring how parents, librarians, educators, and other interested adults choose children's books for children.
- Identify and describe genres of children's literature and compare specific genres and forms and describe their intersecting features and characteristics.

Prerequisites and Corequisites

PREREQUISITE: ENGL 1010, 1020, and
2201 or 2202 with a "C-" or better, or their equivalent.

Course Topics

Introduction to Children's Literature and writing about literature (week one)

Picturebooks, picturebook paper, writing about children's literature, and library research (weeks two, three, four)

History of Children's Literature, library research, writing about children's literature, children's poetry (weeks five to seven)

Domestic and Adventure Fiction and Historical Fiction (weeks eight and nine)

Fantasy and Realism, Writing about Children's Literature--drafting and revising (week ten)

Race and Ethnicity in Children's Literature, Nonfiction and Children's Literature, Conducting Research on Children's Literature, Writing About

Children's Literature (weeks eleven and twelve)

Fairy tales , Gender and Sexualities in Children's Literature, Censorship and Selection in Children's Literature, and Children's Literature and Popular Culture (weeks thirteen and fourteen)

Exam review and preparation, and final (week fifteen)

Specific Course Requirements

Requirements: Two researched papers (3.5-4 pages each with three quotes from three sources found using the library databases); one presentation on an award-winning author or a genre or form, one poem presentation, one annotated bibliography that alphabetizes and compiles at least five of the library database sources found for paper one and paper two, one exam, engaged participation (reading quizzes, writing assignments, significant contributions to class discussions and presentations, demonstrated engagement with the class through review of course materials, discussion posts, and presentations)

Textbooks, Supplementary Materials, Hardware and Software Requirements

Required Textbooks

Textbooks are available from the University Store at 901-678-2011, and online.

Reading Children's Literature,

- Publisher: Broadview Press; 2 edition (March 28, 2019)
- Language: English
- ISBN-10: 155481443X
- ISBN-13: 978-1554814435

Nikki Giovanni Bronx Masquerade,

- Paperback: 192 pages
- Publisher: Speak; Reprint edition (August 8, 2017)
- Language: English
- ISBN-10: 9780425289761
- ISBN-13: 978-0425289761

Rita Williams-Garcia One Crazy Summer

- Language: English
- ISBN-10: 0060760907
- ISBN-13: 978-0060760908

The Undefeated, Kwame Alexander, Illus. Kadir Nelson, ISBN-13 978-1328780966

Ursula K. Le Guin Wizard of Earthsea,

- Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (September 11, 2012)
- Language: English
- ISBN-10: 0547773749
- ISBN-13: 978-0547773742

Jerry Craft New Kid,

- Publisher: Quill Tree Books, 2019

- Language: English
- ISBN-10: 0062691198
- ISBN-13: 978-0062691194

Required for reading but not required for purchase because of availability online:

Picture This: How Pictures Work Molly Bang ISBN 978158717-030-0

Anne of Green Gables (excerpts)

- Publisher: Signet (May 6, 2003)
- Language: English
- ISBN-10: 0451528824
- ISBN-13: 978-0451528827

Charlotte's Web (excerpts)

- Publisher: HarperCollins (1800)
- ASIN: B01070WUQ4

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland (excerpts)

- Paperback
- Publisher: Dover Publications (1994)
- ASIN: 0830128999

Hardware and Software Requirements

The minimum requirements can be found at

<https://www.memphis.edu/uofmglobal/services/technology/requirements.php>

Assessment and Grading

Testing Procedures

There will be one major exam, which will be a short essay exam. This will be open book and open note and will be available online two weeks before the exam. Each student will complete five short answer/short essays.

Quizzes will be open note/open book multiple choice and available online. These will not have a time limit, but they will be limited to one attempt.

Grading Procedure

High achievement in this course will mean that student has demonstrated a depth and breadth of reading, thinking, and writing (students will be able to write about books from the beginning of the semester through the end of the semester, and will be able to make connections between these books and the material and concepts and terms addressed in the textbook, presentations by instructors and classmates, and research that the student has conducted. High achievement will also reflect regular engagement in discussions, review of presentations and readings, and punctual and complete submission of assignments.

Grading Scale

940-1000 A

900-939 A-

880-899 B+

840-879 B

800-839 B-

780-799 C+

740-779 C

700-739---C-

680-699 D+

640-679 D

600-639 D-

Paper one on a picturebook with quotes from three library database articles or book reviews (200 points), paper two on an award-winning children's book with quotes from three library database articles or book reviews (200 points), poem presentation (100 points), genre, form, or award-winning book presentation (200 points), annotated bibliography on articles or book reviews about children's texts found using the library databases (100 points), short essay exam (100 points), regular engagement in discussions, quizzes, exercises, and activities (100 points).

Supplementary Materials (not required but possibly helpful for projects, notetaking, planning, and research).

Pens, pencils, notebook or marble composition book, construction paper, index cards, colored pencils, markers, and/or crayons may be helpful for some projects and presentations.