The University of Texas at Austin  
School of Information  

INF 322T Children’s Literature Fall 2012, Unique #28435  
Veronica Covington, Ph.D.  
Aug. 29-Dec. 5, 2012  
Mon. /Wed. 2:00-3:30  
Final: Sat., Dec. 15, 2012, 2:00-5:00  
ART 1.102  
Office: UTA 5.460 (1616 Guadalupe)  
http://www.ischool.utexas.edu/about/location.php  
Office Hrs. by appointment on Mon. /Wed. 3:45-4:30  
Phone: W- 512 471-4374  
Email: veronica@ischool.utexas.edu  
Teaching Assistant: Emma De Boer  
Emma.deboer@yahoo.com  
Office Hrs. 12:30-1:30 Mon./Wed. or by appt.  


Course Syllabus  

**Description:** INF 322T – The course is intended as a survey that deals with the selection, evaluation, and utilization of literary materials for children from preschool through middle school age (1-14 years of age). It is expected that students read literary selections for children in this age range. Lists will be provided throughout the course.  

**Course Objectives:**  

1. To identify and understand the values of using literature with children  
2. To identify the states in language, cognitive, social, and personality development and to recommend appropriate literature  
3. To identify and to apply evaluative criteria for plot development, characterization, setting, theme, style and point of view; to develop instructional approaches that reach plot development, characterization, setting, theme, style, and point of view  
4. To evaluate picture books and to describe strategies for sharing picture books with children  
5. To identify characteristics of folktales, myths, fables, and legends; to develop strategies from different countries and for investigating folktales from a single country  
6. To evaluate modern fantasy according to point of view, setting, characterization, and theme; to develop strategies for understanding a appreciating modern fantasy  
7. To identify elements in poetry and to demonstrate methods for involving children in poetry  
8. To evaluate contemporary realistic fiction; to develop strategies for using contemporary realistic fiction in the classroom
9. To list criteria for evaluating historical fiction and to understand the chronological order of events in the historical time line; to analyze similarities and differences between themes developed during different time periods in history; to develop strategies for using historical fiction in the classroom
10. To evaluate multicultural literature and to develop strategies for using multicultural literature
11. To list criteria for evaluating biography and informational books and to describe how nonfictional informational books may be utilized with children

Course Schedule

NOTE: Media selections are for you to view on your own, unless they are not available online. We will then view them in class. If you miss that class, you will have to go read the book at the PCL.

Aug. 29, 2012
Introduction: Course requirements
Go over reading lists
 Lecture 1
Assignment: Lukens: Start Chapter I pp. 1-9

Sept. 3
Labor Day Holiday- No class

Sept. 5
 Continue Lecture 1 over Chapter 1
 Media: A selection: “Chicka Chicka Boom Boom
 Be prepared to discuss: Sarah, Plain and Tall
 List 1 for Exam 1

Sept. 10
 Lecture 2
 Discuss The Midwife’s Apprentice
 Assignment: Lukens: Evaluating and Selecting Literature for Children:
 Chapter 4: Character pp. 114-118
 Chapter 5 Plot pp. 140-144, 159-160
 Conflict pp. 146-150
 Chapter 6 Theme p. 57
 Chapter 7 Setting pp. 166-180
 Chapter 8 Point of View pp. 190-205

Sept. 12
 Continue Evaluating and Selecting Literature for Children
 Be prepared to discuss Sign of the Beaver

Sept. 17
 Lecture 3
The History of Children’s Literature
Be prepared to discuss *Holes*

**Sept. 19**
**Continue Lecture 3**
Media selection: *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People’s Ears*
Continue: The History of Children’s Literature

**Sept. 24**
**Lecture 4**
**Assignment: Lukens- PP. 48-50**
Illustrations in Children’s Books:
Media: A selection: “Tuesday,” “Owl Moon,” “Officer Buckle and Gloria,”

**Sept. 26**
**Cont. Lecture 4**
Illustrations in Children’s Books
Be prepared to discuss *Crispin*
Media selection: “*Millions of Cats,“

**Oct. 1**
**Exam I**
Scantron will be provided.
If you are more than 15 minutes late, you cannot take the exam. You will have to take the Final as a make-up. No exceptions if students finished and left the test before you come in late. Please bring a no. 2 pencil and your ID.

**Oct. 3**
**Lecture 5**
**Assign. Lukens: Chapter 3 pp. 46-65**
Picture Books
Reading List 2
Media selection: “*Chrysanthemum“

**Oct. 8**
Finish Lecture 5 and Chapter 3
Be prepared to discuss *The Giver*

**Oct. 10**
**Lecture 6**
Traditional Literature
Assign. Lukens: Chapter 4 pp. 76-82
Be prepared to discuss: *Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children*
Media: View “*William Wegman’s Mother Goose“

**Oct. 15**
Continue Traditional Literature
Be prepared to discuss *Cirque Du Freak*
Media Selections: “A Story, A Story” “The Village of Round and Square Houses” “Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughters”

Oct. 17
Finish Traditional Literature
Last day to view Test 1

Oct. 22
Lecture 7
Assign. Lukens: Chapter 4 Fantasy/Science Fiction pp. 83-87
Media: “Where the Wild Things Are,”
Be prepared to discuss *Harry Potter*

Oct. 24
Continue Fantasy/SF

Oct. 29
Finish Fantasy/SF
Be prepared to discuss *The Lightning Thief*

Oct. 31
Exam II
Scantron will be provided.
**If you are more than 15 minutes late, you cannot take the exam.** You will have to take the Final as a make-up. No exceptions if students finished and left the test before you come in late. Please bring no. 2 pencil and ID.

Nov. 5
Speaker: Author of historical graphic books for children, Mike Kearby

Nov. 7
Lecture 8
Poetry
Assign. Lukens: Chapter 11 pp. 258-275
Media: “Harlem”
Reading List 3

Nov. 12
Finish Poetry Unit
View: “*The Highwayman*”

Nov. 14
Lecture 9
Assign. Lukens: pp. 19-22 Censorship
Contemporary Realistic Fiction
Media: “Amazing Grace”
Be prepared to discuss *Bud, Not Buddy*

**Nov. 19**
Finish Contemporary Realistic Fiction  
Assign. Lukens: Chapter 4, pp. 88-92  
Discuss *Hatchet*  
**Last day to see Test 2.**

**Nov. 21**
**Lecture 10**  
Historical Fiction  
Media: A selection from the following: “Molly’s Pilgrim”  
Be prepared to discuss *Number the Stars*

**Nov. 26**
Finish Historical Fiction  
Be prepared to discuss *Esperanza Rising*

**Nov. 28**
**Lecture 11**  
Biographies and Information Books  
Assign. Lukens: Chapter 12, pp. 283--292  
Chapter 12  Biographies and Informational Books  pp. 271-280

**Dec. 3**
**Cont. Lecture 11**  
Assign. Lukens:  
**Chapter 13  Informational Books pp. 304-319**  
View “What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin?”  
Be prepared to discuss: *A Year Down Yonder*  
**Review for Test 3**

**Dec. 5**
**Exam III**

**If you are more than 15 minutes late, you cannot take the exam.** You will have to take the Final as a make-up. No exceptions if students finished and left the test before you come in late. Bring no. 2 pencil and ID.

**Dec. 15, 2012, 2:00-5:00 (Sat.)**  
**Final:** Optional, unless you missed one previous exam. Final is a comprehensive exam with 100 objective questions.  
All students taking the Final will take it between 2:00-5:00 in the ART 1.102. Finals will not be given early.
Course Requirements

Requirements: There will be 3 examinations and one optional comprehensive final administered in class. **You must take 3 out of the four exams. If you do not take 3 exams, your total points will be divided by four.** The questions for the exams will be taken from the text, materials discussed or viewed in class, assigned readings, and reading of children’s books as listed and given throughout the course.

Exams: The questions on the 3 exams and the final will be objective – either matching or multiple choice. Scantrons will be provided. After exam grades have been posted, you may see your exam answers during office hours or by appointment for two weeks after the exam. **You can see your exam, but you cannot copy any of the questions.** Inquiries about exam grades must be made within two weeks after the grades have been posted. (Don’t wait till the end of the semester to try to see all your exams. It won’t happen!)

Make-up exams are not given. If you miss an exam, then you will be required to take the comprehensive exam on **Dec. 15, 2012, Sat., 2:00-5:00.** If you miss two exams, you will automatically get a zero for the second exam, so I suggest you drop the course.

STATEMENT CONCERNING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259. If you have a letter from the office of the Dean of Students, which entitles you to special exam taking options, efforts will be made to accommodate your needs.

University of Texas rules in regard to academic dishonesty are enforced in this class. Please do not plagiarize, as instances of plagiarism will result in an automatic F (fail) for the entire course. Plagiarism is defined here: [http://www.plagiarism.org/learning_center/what_is_plagiarism.html](http://www.plagiarism.org/learning_center/what_is_plagiarism.html)

Exam Format: Exams are 75 questions long and the Final is comprehensive and is 100 questions long. Exams will not be handed out until everyone is seated. All cell phones and Ipods must be put away. **No headsets allowed.** You will turn in both the scantron and the exam. At that time, **you must have a picture ID.** Consult the Class Calendar for your three exam times. Exam times cannot be changed unless you have a letter from the Office of the Dean of Students or you have made special arrangements.

Grading: Grades are based on 3 exams, and one optional final (if you choose to take it) and an optional one or up to 2 points extra credit paper and or volunteer option. I take the three highest percentage grades and average them. Grading scale for this class will be as follows:

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F = Below 60%
Students taking the class CR/F must earn at least a 60 average to earn a CR. (Graduate students must earn at least a 70 average to earn CR.) Grades are not rounded up. For example an 89.999 requires an extra credit paper to become an “A-”. The grade of X (incomplete) will be given only in cases of emergencies, which have been reported at the time of the emergency. Do not come to me after the final to ask for extra credit to pass the class or bring your grade up. It will not happen.

Please do not text or use your phones during lecture. Put them on silent or vibrate. You may use your computers to take notes, but it is not appropriate to use it for social media or browsing the web during lecture. Do that outside of class. You may be asked to put your computer away if you get caught using it for other things than notes.

Extra Credit: Any student who successfully completes one and only one from each of the choices for extra credit assignments from the two sections will receive one point extra credit each (one or two points added to class average). Extra credit options will be discussed the first day of class.

CHAPTER BOOKS

EXAM I

The Midwife’s Apprentice by Karen Cushman
Sarah Plain and Tall by Patricia McLachlan
Sign of the Beaver by Elizabeth G. Speare
Holes – Lois Sachar
Crispin, the Cross of Lead-Avi

EXAM II

Miss Peregrine’s Home for Peculiar Children – Ransom Riggs
The Giver – Lois Lowry
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone – J.K. Rowling
Cirque du Freak: Living Nightmare - Darren Shan
The Lightning Thief- Rick Riordan

EXAM III

Bud, not Buddy – C. Curtis
Hatchet – Gary Paulsen
Esperanza Rising- Pam Munoz Ryan
Number the Stars- Lois Lowry
A Year Down Yonder – Richard Peck

FINAL EXAM
Julie of the Wolves by Jean Craighead George
And all other books from previous exams
Extra Credit Options
Children’s Literature, 322T
Dr. Veronica Pro Covington

EXTRA CREDIT IS DUE BY Dec. 5, 2012

You may turn in extra credit in class anytime during the semester or in my box in UTA 5.526 or email it to me before Dec. 5, 2012. On Dec. 5, 2012, you must turn it in to me, not in my box. NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. (I WILL NOT ACCEPT PAPERS DURING OR AFTER THE FINAL. Don’t email me after the fact when you realize that an extra credit paper can bring up your average.)

You can pick one project from the written section and one project from the public service section for a total of 2 pts. But only one from each section.

Written Projects

Written EXTRA CREDIT OPTION 1

Any student completing a two page, double spaced and word processed essay (font size 12) based on two picture books is eligible for one extra credit point that will be added to your final average. Please use the following two titles listed by the beginning letter of your last name.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Letter of Last Name</th>
<th>Titles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A-C</td>
<td><em>Animalia,</em> <em>Alligators All Around</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-F</td>
<td><em>Z Was ZAPPED,</em> <em>Jumanji</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G-I</td>
<td><em>St, George and the Dragon,</em> <em>Sir Gawain and The Loathly Lady</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J-L</td>
<td><em>William Wegman’s Mother Goose,</em> <em>Real Mother Goose</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What you may want to consider in crafting your essay:

1. Comparison and contrast.
2. The elements of design, artistic media, and artistic style.
3. Ways the books could be of value or use to children. (Or of no value or use if this is your opinion.)
4. What do YOU think about the books?
5. Anything else that you see relevant to your essay.

Written EXTRA CREDIT OPTION 2

Any student completing a one and a half to two page double spaced and word processed essay and critique of a Newbery Award book will receive 1 point added to their final average. (Font size 12). Please use the following titles listed by the beginning letter of your last name.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First Letter of Last Name</th>
<th>Newbery Award Books or other approved titles</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A - C</td>
<td><em>Crispin</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D - F</td>
<td><em>A Year Down Yonder</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G - I</td>
<td><em>Holes</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J - L</td>
<td><em>Hatchet</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M – O</td>
<td><em>The Giver</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>P - R</td>
<td><em>The Lightning Thief</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S – U</td>
<td><em>Number the Stars</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What you might want to consider in crafting your essay:

1. Comparison and contrast. (to another Newbery Award book)
2. **You must include a summary of a review from one journal and site it.** (Ex. *The Horn Book, School Library Journal*)
3. Ways the book could be of value or use to children. (Or of no value or use if this is your opinion.)
4. What do YOU think about the book?
5. You must include the year that the books got the Newbery Award and why you think it deserved it or why you think it should not have gotten the award. For *The Lightning Thief* state what awards it has received and why you agree or disagree with the award.
6. Anything else that you see relevant to your essay.

**Written EXTRA CREDIT OPTION 3**

Prepare a power point presentation on any **Newbery** author or **Caldecott** illustrator. The presentation must include:

- Biographical information
- Picture or pictures of the author or illustrator.
- List of books author has written or illustrator has illustrated.
- A picture of the covers of at least 3 books and one has to be the one that won the award.
- A minimum of 6 slides of content is required. (This does not include the title or the final reference page.)

Please let me know as soon as possible if you are planning to do this project so I can place your author or illustrator on a list of authors or illustrators taken. **I do not want duplicates.**
You can submit your project on-line, by emailing it to me or hand in a disk or CD.

**Public Service Extra Credit. (For all public service projects, you must submit a one page summary of your experience with your paperwork verifying your hour.) Forms are on Blackboard.**

Project One: You can volunteer at any public school library for 10 hours during the semester. (Forms will be posted on Blackboard) The librarian must approve and verify your hours there.

Project Two: Volunteer to tutor at the Metz Elementary HOSTS program that starts this Sept. 2012. (Work a minimum of 10 hrs.) Melanie Perez is in charge of program.
Reply to metzhosts@austinisd.org

Reply to metzhosts@austinisd.org
Melanie Perez
HOSTS (Help One Student to Succeed)
Metz Elementary
84 Robert Martinez Jr
Austin, Texas 78702
work 512.841.0068
fax 512.472.3412
metzhosts@austinisd.org

If you already volunteer for a non-profit organization that reads to children, see me for approval of your ten hours credit. They must be done during the 2012 fall semester.

Project Three: Volunteer to work (minimum of 10 hrs.) at the Texas Book Festival in Oct. 27-28, 2012.
http://www.texasbookfestival.org/Volunteer.php