

The University of Texas at Austin
School of Information
INF 328E (28230) Materials for Children - Fall 2017

Dr. Barbara A. Jansen, Adjunct Assistant Professor

Dates: September 11, 2017 to December 11, 2017

Class time: 6 - 9 pm

Location: UTA 5.102

Office hours: before class, outside of the classroom; or by appointment (phone or Skype)

Email: All student correspondence to the professor **MUST** be sent through Canvas in order to document and archive email. Because the professor teaches more than one course, please include a descriptive subject line that begins with 382E (e.g. *382E Question about assignment 2*).

Twitter: @bjansen

Course description:

A survey of children's literature; materials in various formats suitable for use by and with children. Evaluation tools, application of selection and evaluation criteria, and planning for the use of materials.

Course objectives:

- Articulate the social and cognitive developmental levels of children and apply those levels to the understanding of children's right to read and view.
- Select quality literature that reflects and appeals to a wide range of diverse readers (e.g., diversity in race, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, religion) and to analyze literature for cultural authenticity and absence of bias and stereotyping.
- Become familiar with a wide selection of children's literature appropriate for early childhood through middle school engagement.
- Recognize and select quality literature from all genres for children using a variety of resources and applying criteria for age-appropriateness and literary excellence across genres.
- Provide leadership in schools, public libraries, and the broader community to promote meaningful engagement with quality literature in all formats.
- Work individually and in collaboration with peers to research and present scholarship relative to children's literature in professional settings.

Required readings:

Textbook: Norton, D., (2011). *Through the eyes of a child: An introduction to children's literature* (8th ed.). Columbus, Ohio: C.E. Merrill Pub.

Additional readings required each week are posted in the week's module in Canvas

Additional class requirements: Bring a fully charged internet enabled device to class *each week*. A laptop or tablet is preferable, as there may be lengthy written assignments in class each week. Bring your textbook to class each week.

Grading:

- In-class participation & attendance: 10%
- Weekly and in-class assignments: 35%
- Genre study guides: 35%
- Group wiki pages for genre study: 20%

In-class participation & attendance: Students are expected to be in class each session and participate actively, and to the best of his or her ability, in oral discussions and group activities. Readings for that week's class will prepare students for active participation in discussions and group work. Attend all classes. One excused absence will not count against a student's grade if prior notice of absence is received. If the absence is due to an emergency and prior notice is not possible, please notify the professor as soon as you can.

Weekly and in-class assignments: Students will frequently have assignments that are due at the time class begins. See the week's module for assigned work and the due date and time. We will use time in class to build upon the assigned readings and written assignments, as well as exploring the course material in more depth. In most cases, students will be completing writing activities in class as well as engaging in discussions and group assignments. On occasion, these assignments will be extended to be due later in the week if there is not enough time to finish and submit during class. Students are expected to come to class prepared to actively participate each and every week. Please bring a fully charged, internet-connected device as well as the required children's book with you to class each week. A laptop is preferable. Assignments must be submitted via Canvas.

Genre study guides: Each week during the study of specific genre, you will complete an assignment for that genre that will benefit K-5 teachers, school librarians, and public librarians in Texas and beyond. As a member of a 3-4 person team, you will be assigned a grade level and each person on the team will choose an award winning title for each genre in which to develop activities for use in the classroom or library. Genre include poetry, realistic fiction, traditional literature, fantasy/science fiction, historical fiction, biography, and informational books. The activities will tie into the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) for the grade level.

Group wiki pages for genre study: At the end of the semester your team will compile the titles and activities each of you developed, as well as the TEKS, and genre characteristics into a class wiki that can be accessed by teachers and librarians.

Course policies:

Review the course learning objectives, expectations, grading, and class schedule (below). Each student and the instructor must agree to contribute their very best work and agree to the below. One excused absence will not count against a student's grade. Prior notice of absence is required, unless the absence is due to an emergency before class. All assignments must be completed in order to make at least a C-. If a student fails to submit any major assignment, the highest grade attainable will be a C-. School of Information Grading Policy and UT Academic Integrity policy will be used.

Student responsibilities:

- Turn all assignments in on time. Late papers will receive one whole letter grade lower per day.
- Check and respond to email daily.
- Attend all classes. One excused absence will not count against a student's grade. Prior notice of absence is required. If a student misses class, the in-class assignments must be completed in the next two weeks. It is the responsibility of the student to contact the professor for make-up work.
- As required, post reactions to class readings to the discussion board in a timely manner.
- Turn in assignments at the beginning of the class session or by the time given. Assignments should be submitted in the format indicated for each unless otherwise specified.
- Read and understand expectations regarding the UT Policy on Academic Integrity and the School of Information Grading Policy.
- Respect all class members. Read and follow proper etiquette in e-mail and discussion board communication.

Professor responsibilities:

- Answer e-mail within 24 hours on weekdays.
- Evaluate assignments considering the assessment criteria.
- Provide feedback on assignments within 2 weeks of the due date.
- Assist students with the course content, administrative issues, or technological support.

Students with Disabilities Information:

The University of Texas at Austin provides, upon request, appropriate academic accommodations for qualified students with disabilities. For more information, contact the Office of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 5124716259, 5124714641 [TTY](http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/accommodationsandservices/). <http://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/accommodationsandservices/> (Links to an external site.)[Links to an external site.](#)

Religious Holidays:

By UT Austin policy, you must notify me of your pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. If you must miss a class, an examination, a work assignment, or a project in order to observe a religious holy day, you will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.

Academic Dishonesty:

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](#). [Read about academic dishonesty here](#) [Links to an external site.](#)

Inclement Weather:

Because the professor commutes from out of town to the University, there may be a day she cannot commute due to bad weather. On those days, class WILL be held via the "Conference" module on the course Canvas page. Students log in from their physical location of choice and participate live online. On

days of inclement weather, students should check email at least two hours before class to see if class will be held online.