

**THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
SCHOOL OF INFORMATION
INF 322T Children's Literature WB – Fall 2017**

Assistant Adjunct Instructor: Kristen Oglesbee

Office Hours: Online through Canvas Conferences (by appointment)

Telephone: 936-615-4555

Email: kristenoglesbee@utexas.edu

The best way to reach me is by email- 24-hour email turnaround.

Teaching Assistant: The iSchool IT Lab TA Pool

Office- UTA 1.210 (1616 Guadalupe)

Telephone: 512-471-3991 DURING HOURS ONLY

Email: ta_pool@ischool.utexas.edu

For all email correspondence to the Professor and the TA Pool, please use a descriptive subject line that includes the name of the course and my name (for example: INF 322T-KO Question).

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND REQUIREMENTS

Description:

Children's Literature (INF 322T) is a survey course in the evaluation, selection, and proper and creative use of books and other media with children ages 0 to 12.

Objectives:

In this course, students will engage in extensive reading of children's books to:

- develop their capacity to critically read, analyze, and respond to a diverse body of literature
- identify and evaluate the elements of various genres of children's literature
- apply knowledge of children, their development, and interests to the selection and recommendation of appropriate literature
- apply knowledge of selection and evaluation criteria to books created for children

Readings:

Required Textbook: Short, K.G., Lynch-Brown, C. & Tomlinson, C. (2013). *Essentials of Children's Literature*, 8th ed., Pearson.

Required Canvas Readings: Additional reading and viewing assignments (including articles, websites, videos, and children's picture books) will be posted in the weekly modules on Canvas. There is no printed course packet for this course.

Required Children's Chapter Books:

1. *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White
2. *The Wednesday Wars* by Gary Schmidt
3. *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander
4. *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio
5. *Harry Potter* by J. K. Rowling
6. *Better Nate Than Ever* by Tim Federle
7. *The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo
8. *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
9. *Dead End in Norvelt* by Jack Gantos OR *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan
10. *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson
11. *El Deafo* by Cece Bell

Assignments:

Discussions 30%

Weekly Quizzes 20%

Assignments 30%

Portfolio 20%

Total 100%

Discussions:

The discussions will take place in Canvas using the discussions tool and count as participation in the course. A few questions will be posted related to the topic and readings of the week. Students are required to post an initial discussion in 600 words or more to the board by Thursday night at 11:59pm CT each week and respond to two students in 250 words or more each by Sunday at 11:59pm CT. **I will not accept late posts to the discussion board.**

Weekly Quizzes:

The questions for the quizzes will come out of the assigned textbook chapters and chapter books. These questions are meant to test that students have read the book and grasped some of the concepts of the book. The quizzes will be open for a full week and are due at 11:59pm CT on Sunday. **I will not accept late quizzes.**

Assignments:

Students will participate in weekly assignments where they will be required to apply their understanding of the course material. The assignments will be based on concepts from the course textbook. **I will not accept late assignments.**

Portfolio:

Students will create a portfolio on Children's Literature books and topics.

Course Dates:

Module 1: Why Children's Literature Matters (8/30-9/10)

- Introductions discussion
- Read-A-Lyzer survey
- Textbook Chapter 1 quiz

Module 2: Know the Child, Know the Books (9/11-9/17)

- Charlotte's Web and Textbook Chapter 3 quiz
- Cognitive Language and Development assignment
- Charlotte's Web: Select One Element assignment

Module 3: Books for Babies, Books for Toddlers (9/18-9/24)

- The Wednesday Wars discussion
- The Wednesday Wars and Books for Babies, Books for Toddlers quiz
- Babies and Toddlers: Book Evaluation assignment

Module 4: Picture Books (9/25-10/1)

- Picture Books discussion

- Textbook Chapter 4 quiz

Module 5: Books for Beginning Readers; Poetry (10/2-10/8)

- The Crossover and Poetry discussion
- The Crossover, Beginning Readers and Poetry quiz
- Children's Literature Poets assignment

Module 6: Reading Aloud and History (10/9-10/15)

- Wonder discussion
- Read aloud exercise
- Wonder, Reading Aloud and History quiz

Module 7: Intellectual Freedom (10/16-10-22)

- Intellectual Freedom discussion
- Defending a Challenged book assignment
- Intellectual Freedom and Censorship, Harry Potter quiz
- Begin Children's Literature portfolio

Module 8: Realistic Fiction (10/23-10/29)

- Realistic Fiction discussion
- Realistic Fiction assignment
- Better Nate Than Ever and Textbook Chapter 8 quiz

Module 9: Traditional Literature (10/30-11/5)

- Traditional Literature discussion
- The Tale of Despereaux and Textbook Chapter 6 quiz
- Traditional Lit: Review assignment
- Compare/Contrast a Folktale assignment

Module 10: Fantasy and Science Fiction (11/6-11/12)

- Fantasy and Science Fiction discussion
- The Giver, Fantasy and Science Fiction quiz
- The Hero's Journey assignment
- Children's Literature Portfolio due

Module 11: Historical Fiction and Biography (11/13-11/19)

- Historical Fiction and Biography discussion
- Dead End in Norvelt, Esperanza Rising, Textbook Chapter 9 quiz
- Virtual Jackdaw assignment
- Historical Fiction Picture Books assignment

Module 12: Informational Books (11/20-12/3)

- Informational books discussion
- Brown Girl Dreaming and Textbook Chapter 10 quiz
- Evaluating Nonfiction assignment
- Brown Girl Dreaming: Thematic Approach assignment

Module 13: Graphic Novels (12/4-12/10)

- Children's Literature discussion
- El Deafo and Graphic Novels quiz
- Survey
- Looking at Style in El Deafo assignment

Grades:

Final grades will be determined on the basis of the following scale. Please note: to ensure fairness, all numbers are absolute, and will not be rounded up or down at any stage. Thus a B- will be inclusive of all scores of 80.000 through 83.999. The University does not recognize the grade of A+.

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 a CR.) The grade of X (incomplete) will be given only in cases of emergencies that have been reported at the time of the emergency.

A = 94-100
A- = 90-93
B+ = 87-89
B = 84-86
B- = 80-83
C+ = 77-79
C = 74-76
C- = 70-73
D+ = 67-69
D = 64-66
D- = 60-63
F = 0-60

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, 512-471-6259, 512-471-4641 TTY.

<http://diversity.utexas.edu/disability/accommodations-and-services/>

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:

<http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-c/student-discipline-and-conduct/>

Expectations:

1. Complete all assignments on time. Assignments cannot be made up.
2. Be courteous to others during class discussions. All student contributions to the discussion are valued in this course. Students are expected to be respectful of other students and their opinions.