

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN SCHOOL OF INFORMATION
INF 322T (27075) Children's Literature - WB - Fall 2019
Meet Online Tuesdays from 6 to 9 p.m.

Assistant Adjunct Professor: Marion Rocco

Office: UTA 5.460 (1616 Guadalupe)

Office Hours: By appointment.

Email: marionrocco@utexas.edu.

During the day, I work as a school librarian and have limited access to my UT email. I'll respond to your messages in the evenings and on weekends.

Teaching Assistant: The iSchool IT Lab TA Pool

Office: UTA 1.210 (1616 Guadalupe)

Office Hours: Monday 8:30am to 9:30pm; Tuesday 8:30am to 9:30pm; Wednesday 8:30am to 10pm; Thursday 8:30am to 10pm; Friday 8:30 to 4pm; Sunday 12 to 6

Telephone: 512-471-3991 DURING OFFICE 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 INF 322T (for example: INF 322T 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 14.

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
- choose and create activities to use in the K-8 classroom to extend children's knowledge and appreciation for literature

Expectations:

INF 322T: Children's Literature is not a lecture course. Instead, classes are student-centered and rely heavily on class discussions, small group work, and individual writing and reflection. During class, you will be expected to collaborate with your peers, think critically about the course material, and respond to works of children's literature in a variety of ways. Come prepared to participate and to play an active role in your own learning.

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.

READINGS

- **Required Textbook:** *Essentials of Children's Literature*, 9th ed., (2018), by Kathy G. Short, Carol Lynch-Brown, & Carl M. Tomlinson

- **Required Canvas Readings:** Additional reading assignments will be posted to this site. There is no printed course packet for this course.

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

- **Additional Children's Books:** For many classes, you will also be asked to bring an additional children's book to use as part of the in-class assignments and share with your peers. You may borrow books from the [PCL Youth Collection](#), the [Austin Public Library](#), or another library where you have borrowing privileges. Unless otherwise stated in the assignment, these selections must be print books published from 1999-2019. E-books and self-published books are ineligible for these selections.

SCHEDULE

9/3 – Course Introduction & Expectations; Why Children’s Literature Matters

Complete the readings and quiz detailed in the Module.

9/10 – Know the Child, Know the Books

To prepare for class, read *Charlotte’s Web*. Complete the readings and quiz detailed in the Module. Select a [Coretta Scott King medal winner or honor book](#) to work with in class.

9/17 - Newbery Medal; Know the Books, Part Two

To prepare for class, read *The Wednesday Wars*. Complete the readings and quiz detailed in the Module.

9/24 - Writing About Literature; Caldecott Medal

To prepare for class, read *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*. Complete the readings and quiz detailed in the Module. Select a [Caldecott medal winner or honor book](#) to work with in class.

10/1 – Books for Babies & Toddlers; Reading Aloud

To prepare for class, read *Wonder*. Complete the readings and quiz detailed in the Module. Select a board book or picture book appropriate for babies or toddlers to work with in class.
*Project 1 Due.

10/8 – Books for Beginning Readers; Poetry

To prepare for class, read *The Crossover*. Complete the readings and quiz detailed in the Module. Select a beginning reader book to work with in class.

10/15 - Picture Books

Complete the readings and quiz detailed in the Module. Select a picture book to work with in class.

10/22 – History of Children’s Literature & Current Issues; Realistic Fiction

To prepare for class, read *Better Nate Than Ever*. Complete the readings and quiz detailed in the Module.

*Project 2 Due.

10/29 – Graphic Novels; Censorship

To prepare for class, read *El Deafo*. Complete the readings and quiz detailed in the Module. Select a children's graphic novel to work with in class.

I 1/5 – Traditional Literature

To prepare for class, read *The Tale of Despereaux*. Complete the readings and quiz detailed in the Module. Select a work of traditional literature in picture book format to work with in class.

I 1/12 – Fantasy; Science Fiction

To prepare for class, read *The Giver*. Complete the readings and quiz detailed in the Module.
*Project 3 Due.

I 1/19 – Historical Fiction; Biography

To prepare for class, read *Esperanza Rising*. Complete the readings and quiz detailed in the Module. Select a biography in picture book format to work with in class.

I 1/26 – Informational Books

To prepare for class, read *Brown Girl Dreaming*. Complete the readings and quiz detailed in the Module. Select a non-fiction book to work with in class.

I 2/3 – Mock Newbery; Reflect & Wrap Up

*Project 4 Due.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Grading:

Final grades will be determined on the basis of the following rubric. 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+.

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 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.

Grades will be based on:

Quizzes and Book Selections	20%
In-Class Participation and Activities	40%
Projects	40%
Total	100%

Quizzes and Book Selections (20%)

A weekly quiz is included in each module and must be completed prior to the start of class on Tuesday evening. These quizzes will be based on readings from the textbook, short videos, and other required reading assignments. The weekly quizzes are open book, however you only have a limited time to complete them. Missed quizzes may not be made up.

For many classes, you will also be asked to bring an additional children's book to use as part of the in-class assignments and share with your peers. Children's book selections must be submitted by 7 pm on the Sunday before class. You may borrow books from the [PCL Youth Collection](#), the [Austin Public Library](#), or another library where you have borrowing privileges. Unless otherwise stated in the assignment, these selections must be print books published from 1999-2019. E-books and self-published books are ineligible for these selections.

In-Class Participation and Activities (40%)

We will use our online in-class time to build upon the assigned readings and explore the course material in more depth. In most cases, you will be completing individual or small group activities in-class as well as engaging in discussions and group assignments. Partner and group in-class assignments *may not be made up if missed*.

You are expected to come to class prepared to actively participate each and every day. Plan to have the required children's book with you to refer to during our discussions.

Projects (40%)

You will complete four projects over the course of the semester. More details on your choices for each project are included in the project modules.

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 the Dean of Students at 512-471-6259 or 512-471-4641 TTY.

Academic Integrity:

You are expected to abide by the core values of the University and uphold the principles of academic integrity for all the work you do in this class. Concerns regarding your conduct in this class will be referred to the [Dean of Students \(Links to an external site.\)](#) for investigation.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance:

Attendance is extremely critical in this course, as much of your learning will develop through discussion, collaboration, and in-class activities. Plan to attend all scheduled classes and login on time.

Due Dates:

All work must be turned in by the due date. No late work will be accepted.

Partner and group in-class assignments *may not be made up if missed*. Individual assignments may only be made up in the case of an emergency.

The term “emergency” is defined as:

1. Serious illness or accident regarding the student, or
2. Death, serious illness, or accident in the student’s immediate family.

To make up an individual assignment, a student with an emergency must notify the instructor and present documented evidence of the excuse within 72 hours of the missed class.

Religious Holidays:

By UT Austin policy, a student must provide notification of a pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. The student will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.