THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
SCHOOL OF INFORMATION
INF 322T (27400) Children’s Literature – Spring 2016
Thursdays, 6:00-9:00 p.m. in UTC 3.134

Adjunct Assistant Professor: Marion Rocco
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Office Hours: Before class or by appointment.
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_During the day, I work as an elementary school librarian. I cannot answer my cell phone when I am with students. Email is the best way to reach me._

Teaching Assistant: The iSchool IT Lab TA Pool
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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
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Online Office Google Hangout: _https://talkgadget.google.com/hangouts/_/g4p4bw3kagcndiumrjgephaa7ia_
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_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-12 classroom to extend children’s knowledge and appreciation of literature
Readings:


• Required Canvas Readings: Additional weekly reading assignments will be posted to Canvas (https://canvas.utexas.edu/). 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. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* by Brian Selznick
  4. *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander
  5. *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio
  6. *The Golden Compass* by Philip Pullman
  7. *Better Nate Than Ever* by Tim Federle
  8. *The Tale of Despereaux* by Kate DiCamillo
  9. *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
  10. *Dead End in Norvelt* by Jack Gantos
  11. *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson
  12. *El Deafo* by Cece Bell

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:

- Online Assignments and Quizzes  20%
- In-Class Participation, Quizzes, and Activities  40%
- Midterm Exam  20%
- Final Exam  20%

Total  100%

Online Assignments and Quizzes (20%)

Modules for each week’s material will be posted on Canvas throughout the course. These may include readings, videos, and short assignments. Each module will include a brief open-book quiz on the assigned readings.

In-Class Participation, Quizzes, and Activities (40%)

We will use our in-class time to build upon the assigned readings and explore the course material in more depth. In most cases, students will be completing closed-book quizzes and activities in-class as well as engaging in discussions and group assignments. 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. For many classes, students will also be asked to bring an additional book with them (from the PCL, Austin Public Library, or other library) to use as part of the in-class assignments.

Closed-book quizzes and in-class assignments may not be made up, however the lowest closed-book quiz grade will be dropped.

Midterm and Final Exams (20% each)

The questions for the exams will be taken from materials discussed or viewed in class, assigned readings from the textbook and Canvas, and the required children’s books.

Students who arrive more than 15 minutes late to an exam will not be allowed to take the exam.

All exams will be administered in class via Canvas. Students are expected to come to class with a fully charged, internet-connected device to take the exams. If a student does not have a smartphone, tablet, or laptop, arrangements may be made in advance with the Professor and TA Pool and a device will be provided. Please pay close attention to the exam dates listed in this syllabus and plan ahead. We will not be able to accommodate students who forget devices!

If you have a letter from the Office of the Dean of Students that entitles you to special test taking options, effort will be made to accommodate your needs.

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.

**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.

**Expectations:**

1. Attend all scheduled classes and arrive on time. Late arrivals and early departures are very disruptive. Reading quizzes and in-class assignments *may not* be made up.
2. Please do not schedule other appointments or trips during this class time. You need to take responsibility for attending class and learning the material.
3. If other students are distracting you from hearing the lecture, ask them quietly to stop. If they don’t, please inform the professor.
4. 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.
Course Schedule:

January 21 – Course Introduction; Why Children’s Literature Matters
Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

January 28 – Know the Child, Know the Books
To prepare for class, read: Charlotte’s Web. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

February 4 – Books for Babies, Books for Toddlers
To prepare for class, read: The Wednesday Wars. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

February 11 – Picture Books and their Creators; Reading Aloud
To prepare for class, read: The Invention of Hugo Cabret. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

February 18 – Books for Beginning Readers; Poetry
To prepare for class, read: The Crossover. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

February 25 – History of Children’s Literature; Current Challenges
To prepare for class, read: Wonder. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

March 3 – Censorship and Intellectual Freedom
To prepare for class, read: The Golden Compass. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

March 10 – Midterm Exam Administered in Class
Arrive on time and bring a fully charged, internet-connected device.

March 17 – Spring Break No class!

March 24 – Realistic Fiction; The Newbery Medal
To prepare for class, read: Better Nate Than Ever. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

March 31 – Traditional Literature
To prepare for class, read: The Tale of Despereaux. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

April 7 – Fantasy; Science Fiction
To prepare for class, read: The Giver. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

April 14 – Historical Fiction and Biography
To prepare for class, read: Dead End in Norvelt. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

April 21 – Informational Books
To prepare for class, read: Brown Girl Dreaming. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

April 28 – Graphic Novels; Texas Book Awards
To prepare for class, read: El Deafo. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

May 5 – Final Exam Administered In Class
Arrive on time and bring a fully charged, internet-connected device.