

# The University of Texas at Austin School of Information

INF 322T Children's Literature  
Spring 2016  
Unique #27403

**Adjunct Assistant Professor**, Barbara A. Jansen, Ph.D.

**Dates:** January 25 - May 2, 2016

**Class time:** 12:00-3:00 pm

**Location:** UTC 4.122

**Office hours:** after class, outside of the classroom; or by appointment

**Email:** All student correspondence to the professor **MUST** be sent through Canvas in order to document and archive email.

**Email format:** Because the professor teaches more than one class, please include a descriptive subject line that begins with 322T (e.g. *322T Question about assignment 2*).

**Twitter:** @bjansen

## **The iSchool IT Lab TA Pool:**

Office: UTA 1.210

Office Hours:

- **Monday & Tuesday:** 8:30am - 9:30pm
- **Wednesday & Thursday:** 8:30am - 10pm
- **Friday:** 8:30am - 4:00pm
- **Sunday:** 12:00pm - 6:00pm

Online Office Google

Hangout: [https://talkgadget.google.com/hangouts/\\_/g4p4bw3kagcndiumrigephaa7ia](https://talkgadget.google.com/hangouts/_/g4p4bw3kagcndiumrigephaa7ia) (Links to an external site.)

Skype: ischool.itlab

Telephone: 512-471-3991 DURING OFFICE HOURS ONLY

Email: [ta\\_pool@ischool.utexas.edu](mailto:ta_pool@ischool.utexas.edu)

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## **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 (birth through grade 8).

**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 for literature

**Readings:**

Required Textbook: *Essentials of Children's Literature*, 8th ed., (2013), by Kathy G. Short, Carol Lynch-Brown, & Carl M. Tomlinson

Required Canvas Readings: Additional reading and viewing assignments (including articles, websites, video, and children's picture books) will be posted on the course Canvas pages (<https://canvas.utexas.edu/> ([Links to an external site.](#))). 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 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

**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.

**Grading:**

Online Assignments and Quizzes 20%  
In-Class Participation, Quizzes, and Activities 40%  
Midterm Exam 20%  
Final Exam 20%  
Total 100%

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### Online Assignments and Quizzes (20%)

Modules for each week's material will be posted on Canvas throughout the course. These may include readings (articles, websites, picture books), videos, and short assignments. Each module will include a brief open-book quiz on the assigned readings. These quizzes must be completed prior to the start of class each week.

### In-Class Participation, chapter book 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 writing 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 exam 20%

Administered the Monday before Spring Break

### Final exam 20%

Administered the last day of regularly scheduled class

### *Exams:*

The questions for the two exams will be taken from materials discussed or viewed in class, assigned readings from the textbook and additional readings assigned each week in Canvas modules, 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 photo ID and a fully charged, internet-connected device to take the quizzes.* 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.

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://ddce.utexas.edu/disability/accommodations-and-services/> (Links to an external site.) (Links to an external site.)

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#) (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: <http://catalog.utexas.edu/general-information/appendices/appendix-c/student-discipline-and-conduct/> (Links to an external site.)

[\(Links to an external site.\)](#)

**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 login 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.

**Expectations:**

1. Attend all scheduled classes and arrive on time. Late arrivals and early departures are very disruptive. If you are absent from class for any reason, you are responsible for making up any missed assignment. Reading quizzes *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 25 – Course Introduction; Why Children's Literature Matters: Know the child, Know the books**

To prepare for class, read: *Charlotte's Web*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

**February 1– Books for Babies, Books for Toddlers**

To prepare for class, read: *The Wednesday Wars*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

**February 8 – Picture Books and their Creators; the Caldecott Medal**

To prepare for class, read: *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

**February 15 – Reading Aloud; Books for Beginning Readers; Poetry**

To prepare for class, read: *The Crossover*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

**February 22 – History of Children's Literature; Current Challenges**

To prepare for class, read: *Wonder*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

**March 29 – Censorship and Intellectual Freedom**

To prepare for class, read: *The Golden Compass*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

**March 7 – Midterm Exam Administered in Class**

Arrive on time and bring a fully charged, internet-connected device. If you arrive more than 15 minutes late, you will not be able to take the exam.

**March 14 – Spring Break**

No class!

**March 21 – Realistic Fiction; The Newbery Medal**

To prepare for class, read: *Better Nate Than Ever*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

**March 28 – Traditional Literature**

To prepare for class, read: *The Tale of Despereaux*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

**April 4 – Fantasy; Science Fiction**

To prepare for class, read: *The Giver*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

**April 11 – Historical Fiction and Biography**

To prepare for class, read: *Dead End in Norvelt*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

**April 18 – Informational Books**

To prepare for class, read: *Brown Girl Dreaming*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

**April 25 – Graphic Novels; Texas Book Awards**

To prepare for class, read: *El Deafo*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

**May 2 – Final Exam Administered In Class**

Arrive on time and bring a fully charged, internet-connected device.