

The University of Texas at Austin School of Information

INF 322T Children's Literature, Fall 2018

Unique #27555

Mondays from 12 to 3 p.m. in UTC 4.124

Dr. Barbara A. Jansen, Adjunct Assistant Professor

Dates: September 10, 2018 to December 10, 2018

Class time: 12:00- 3:00 pm

Location: UTC 4.124

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.

The iSchool IT Lab TA Pool:

Office: UTA 1.210 Office Hours: Mon: 8:30-9:30pm, Tues: 8:30-9:30pm, Wed: 8:30-9:30pm,

Thurs: 8:30-9:30pm, Fri: 8:30-4:00pm, Sat: Closed, Sun: 12:00-6:00pm

Telephone: 5124713991 During office hours only

Email: ta_pool@ischool.utexas.edu

Website: <https://www.ischool.utexas.edu/technology/resources/itlab>

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 K12 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 whole 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.

While in class, the focus of your attention should be on the course material and assigned classroom activities. Much of the work you do will require the use of a laptop or other device. Plan to use your laptop or other device only for our in-class work. It is considered unprofessional and can also be a distraction to others to use your device for other activities during class.

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 LynchBrown, & Carl M. Tomlinson

Required Canvas Readings: Additional reading and viewing assignments (including articles, websites, video, and children's picture books) listed below. 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 and the Sorcerer's Stone* 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. *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan
10. *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson
11. *El Deafo* by Cece Bell

We will read these children's books in the order listed above. Please see the [schedule](#) for more details.

Supplemental Children's Books: For many classes, you will need to bring an additional children's book with you. You may borrow books from the PCL Youth Collection, the Austin Public Library, or any other library to which you have access. These books must be in physical format—not electronic books—so that you may share and examine in detail.

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 assignments and other graded 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 (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 assignments and other graded activities (40%)

We will use time in class to build upon the assigned readings and explore 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. Assignments must be submitted via Canvas *and must be formatted in **Microsoft Word** if the assignment is uploaded as TAs are not able to read Apple Pages format*. For many classes, students will also be asked to bring an additional book with them (from the PCL, Austin Public Library, or another library) to use as part of the in-class assignments.

Closed-book online quizzes and in-class assignments may not be made up, especially if the in-class assignment is a group effort.

Midterm exam 20%

Administered October 29.

Final exam 20%

Administered during scheduled final exam session (date/time: TBA--not yet set by the University.)

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 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. If extra time is used, *the student MUST contact the professor 5-7 calendar days prior to the exam to make arrangements for taking the exam in an alternate and proctored setting*, such as the SSD office or the iSchool IT lab.

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. In some cases, your department may require a C- for credit--you should check with your department. (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

Attendance:

Attend all scheduled classes and arrive on time. Late arrivals and early departures are very disruptive. *It is critical that you attend each class session.*

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. A student with an emergency should notify the instructor and present documented evidence of the excuse as soon as possible. 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

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/)

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](#)

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.

Course schedule:

September 10 – Course Introduction; Why Children’s Literature Matters
Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

September 17 – Know the Child; Know the Books #1
To prepare for class, read: *Charlotte’s Web*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

September 24 – Books for Babies & Toddlers; Know the Books #2
To prepare for class, read: *The Wednesday Wars*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas. Bring one baby book to class with you.

October 1 – Writing About Literature; Visual Art Elements & Writing About Art
To prepare for class, read: *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas. Bring one picture book to class with you.

October 8 – Picture Books; Poetry
To prepare for class, read: *The Crossover*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas. Bring one beginning reader to class with you.

October 15 – Books for Beginning Readers; Reading Aloud
To prepare for class, read: *Wonder*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas. Bring one book to read aloud to class with you.

October 22 – The Newbery Medal; Promoting Books to Children
Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

October 29 – Midterm Exam Administered in Class
Arrive on time and bring a fully charged, internet-connected device.

November 5 - History of Children’s Literature & Current Issues; Realistic Fiction
To prepare for class, read: *Better Nate Than Ever*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

November 12 – Traditional Literature
To prepare for class, read: *The Tale of Despereaux*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas. Bring one work of traditional literature in picture book format to class with you.

November 19 – Fantasy; Science Fiction
To prepare for class, read: *The Giver*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

November 26 – Historical Fiction and Biography
To prepare for class, read: *Esperanza Rising*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas. Bring one biography in picture book format to class with you.

December 3 – Informational Books

To prepare for class, read: *Brown Girl Dreaming*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas. Bring one informational book to class with you.

December 10 – Censorship & Intellectual Freedom; Graphic Novels

To prepare for class, read: *El Deafo*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas. Bring one graphic novel to class with you.

Date to be determined by University - Final Exam

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