

**The University of Texas at Austin
School of Information**

INF 322T Children's Literature Fall 2014, Unique # 28675

Veronica Covington, Ph.D.

Aug. 28-Dec. 4, 2014

Tues. /Thurs. 12:30-2:00

Final: Tuesday, Dec. 16, 9:00-12:00 noon

UTC 4.110

Office: UTA 5.460 (1616 Guadalupe)

<http://www.ischool.utexas.edu/about/location.php>

Office Hrs. by appointment on Tues. & Thurs. 2:30-3:30

Phone: W- 512 471-4374 (Do not have voicemail so best way to contact me is through email)

Email: veronica@ischool.utexas.edu

Required Text: Rebecca J. Lukens. *A Critical Handbook of Children's Literature*. 9th Edition. Pearson Education, 2013.

Course Syllabus

Description: INF 322T – The course is intended as a survey that deals with the selection, evaluation, and utilization of literary materials for children from preschool through middle school age (1-14 years of age). It is expected that students read literary selections for children in this age range. Lists will be provided throughout the course.

Course Objectives:

1. To identify and understand the values of using literature with children
2. To identify the states in language, cognitive, social, and personality development and to recommend appropriate literature
3. To identify and to apply evaluative criteria for plot development, characterization, setting, theme, style and point of view; to develop instructional approaches that reach plot development, characterization, setting, theme, style, and point of view
4. To evaluate picture books and to describe strategies for sharing picture books with children
5. To identify characteristics of folktales, myths, fables, and legends; to develop strategies from different countries and for investigating folktales from a single country
6. To evaluate modern fantasy according to point of view, setting, characterization, and theme; to develop strategies for understanding a appreciating modern fantasy
7. To identify elements in poetry and to demonstrate methods for involving children in poetry
8. To evaluate contemporary realistic fiction; to develop strategies for using contemporary realistic fiction in the classroom
9. To list criteria for evaluating historical fiction and to understand the chronological order of events in the historical time line; to analyze similarities and differences between themes developed during different time periods in history; to develop strategies for using historical fiction in the classroom

10. To evaluate multicultural literature and to develop strategies for using multicultural literature
11. To list criteria for evaluating biography and informational books and to describe how nonfictional informational books may be utilized with children

Course Schedule

NOTE: Media selections are for you to view on your own, unless they are not available online. We will view them in class. If you miss that class, you will have to go read the book at the PCL.

Thursday, Aug. 28

Introduction: Course requirements

Discuss reading lists

Lecture 1: Welcome to Children's Literature

Assignment: Lukens Chapter I pp. 1-9

Tuesday, Sept. 2

Cont. Lecture 1

Media: *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*

List 1 for Exam 1

Be prepared to discuss *Sarah, Plain and Tall*

Thursday, Sept. 4

Finish Lecture 1

Be prepared to discuss *The Midwife's Apprentice*

Tuesday, Sept. 9

Lecture 2: Evaluating and selecting Children's Literature

Assignment: Lukens

Chapter 3: Literary Elements pp. 53-68

Chapter 5: Character pp. 113-121

Chapter 6: Plot pp. 140-161,

Chapter 7 Setting pp. 166-186

Chapter 8: Point of View pp. 191-205

Thursday, Sept. 11

Finish Lecture 2

Media: *Zin! Zin! Zin! A Violin*

Be prepared to discuss *Sign of the Beaver*

Tuesday, Sept. 16

Lecture 3: History of Children's Literature

Be prepared to discuss *Holes*

Thursday, Sept. 18

Finish Lecture 3

Media: *Why Mosquitoes Buzz in People's Ears*

Tuesday, Sept. 23

Lecture 4: Artists and their Illustrations
Assignment Lukens Chapter 3 pp. 48-52

Thursday, Sept. 25

Cont. Lecture 4

Media selection: *Millions of Cats, Tuesday, Owl Moon, Officer Buckle and Gloria*
Be prepared to discuss *Crispin*

Tuesday, Sept. 30

Exam I

If you are more than 15 minutes late, you cannot take the exam.

Scantron will be provided. You will have to take the Final as a make-up. No exceptions especially if students have finished and left the exam site before you arrive. Please bring a no. 2 pencil and your ID.

Thursday, Oct. 2

Lecture 5: Picture books
Assignment Lukens Chapter 3 pp. 46-48
Media: *Chrysanthemum*
Reading List 2

Tuesday, Oct. 8

Finish Lecture 5
Be prepared to discuss *The Giver*

Thursday, Oct. 9

Lecture 6: Traditional Literature
Assignment Lukens: Chapter 4 pp. 76-82
Media: *William Wegman's Mother Goose*
Be prepared to discuss *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*

Tuesday, Oct. 14

Cont. Lecture 6
Media Selections: *A Story, A Story, The Village of Round and Square House, Mufaro's Beautiful Daughters*
Be prepared to discuss *The Graveyard Book*

Thursday, Oct. 16

Finish Lecture 6
Last day to view Exam 1

Tuesday, Oct. 21

Lecture 7: Modern Fantasy
Assignment: Lukens Chapter 4 pp. 83-87
Media: *Where the Wild Things Are*
Be prepared to discuss *Harry Potter*

Thursday, Oct. 23

Finish Lecture 7

Be prepared to discuss *The Lightning Thief*

Tuesday, Oct. 28

Exam II

If you are more than 15 minutes late, you cannot take the exam.

Scantron will be provided. You will have to take the Final as a make-up. No exceptions especially if students have finished and left the exam site before you arrive. Please bring no. 2 pencil and ID.

Thursday, Oct. 30

Guest speaker: Author of *Scout, the Christmas Dog*, Dr. Andrew Sansom

Tuesday, Nov. 4

Lecture 8: Poetry

Assignment: Lukens pp. 258-275

Media: *Harlem*

Reading List 3

Thursday, Nov. 6

Finish Lecture 8

Media: *The Highwayman*

Tuesday, Nov. 11

Lecture 9: Censorship and Contemporary Realistic Literature

Assignment: Lukens pp. 19-22

Media: *Amazing Grace*

Be prepared to discuss *Bud, Not Buddy*

Thursday, Nov. 13

Finish Lecture 9

Assignment: Lukens pp. 88-92

Discuss *Hatchet*

Last day to see Exam II

Tuesday, Nov. 18

Lecture 10: Historical Fiction

Assignment: Lukens pp. 93-98

Media: *Molly's Pilgrim*

Be prepared to discuss *Number the Stars*

Thursday, Nov. 20

Finish Lecture 10

Media: *What's the Big Idea, Ben Franklin?*

Be prepared to discuss *Esperanza Rising*

Tuesday, Nov. 25

Lecture 11: Biographies and Information Books
Assignment: Lukens pp. 282-296 & pp. 304-323

Nov. 27-28 Thanksgiving Holidays

Tuesday, Dec. 2

Finish Lecture 11
Be prepared to discuss: *Dead End in Norvelt*

Thursday, Dec. 5

Exam III

If you are more than 15 minutes late, you cannot take the exam.

Scantron will be provided. You will have to take the Final as a make-up. No exceptions especially if students have finished and left the exam site before you arrive. Please bring no. 2 pencil and ID.

Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2014, 9:00-12:00 noon

Final: Optional, unless you missed one previous exam. Final is a comprehensive exam with 100 objective questions.

All students taking the **final** will take it between 9:00-12:00 noon in the UTC 4.110. Do not be late. If you come in after 9:15, you will be asked to leave.

Do not ask to be given the final Exam early. I must follow the UT final exam regulations. See: Regulations governing the administration of examinations (General Information Catalog, Chapter 4) require that no semester examinations be given before the examination period begins, and that the index of final examination times is followed for classes that have an exam. Course Schedule, Fall 2014 or at <http://registrar.utexas.edu/schedules/#index>

Course Requirements

There will 3 examinations and one optional, comprehensive final exam administered in class. **You must take 3 out of the four exams. If you do not take 3 exams, your total points will be divided by four.** If you miss an exam, the final exam is your make-up exam. The questions for the exams will be taken from the lecture, text, materials discussed or viewed in class, assigned readings, and readings of children's books as listed and given throughout the course.

Course Format and Procedures

This course is primarily a lecture class with some class discussion. I will use PowerPoint presentations, videos, websites, and other media to illustrate the information in the lectures. I expect students to attend class regularly and to respect the rights of other students to learn. **During the class lectures, I expect students to pay attention and not carry on conversations with fellow students. Cell phones and other electronic communication devices need to be turned off or set to vibrate. If a student has an emergency and needs to make a telephone call, he/she should leave the classroom to make the necessary telephone calls.** I expect students to read the required children's

books and textbook materials, as well as the materials I will post to Canvas as support for the lectures. I also expect students to check the Canvas course site regularly for updates and communication from my TA and me. Please bring your syllabus to class with your reading lists so you can make notations as I lecture over the books.

Please do not text or use your phones during lecture. Keep your cell phones in your pocket or backpacks. You may use your computer to take notes, but it is not appropriate to use it for social media or browsing the web during lecture. Do that outside of class. You may be asked to put your computer away if you get caught using it for other things other than notes. **It is distracting to other students.**

Exams: The questions on the 3 exams and the final will be objective – either matching or multiple choice. Scantrons will be provided. After exam grades have been posted, you may see your exam answers during office hours or by appointment for two weeks after the exam. **You can see your exam, but you cannot copy any of the questions.** Inquiries about exam grades must be made **within two weeks** after the grades have been posted. (Don't wait till the end of the semester to try to see all your exams, it won't happen!) Any questions you share with students for the final exam will be considered cheating. Exchange of questions is unacceptable. You are allowed to view your exams to help **YOU** with the final. People caught exchanging questions for the final will be given an automatic F and may be suspended from the university. (Yes, we have caught students before, and they have gotten an “**F**” for the course and received disciplinary action.)

Feedback on Exams and How to View Your Exam

My TA will post all course grades to Canvas gradebook. In order to see which test questions you have missed after each test, you will need to email my TA to set up an appointment during his/her office hours. The tests will not be allowed out of the faculty office, as the tests are permanent records of your course work. When you visit the office, you may look at your test paper and answer sheet and see which questions you missed, but you may not take notes on the questions or answers, and you may not take your test or answer sheet out of the office. You may ask my TA questions and email me about any questions you might have. I will resolve any conflicts over test grades. I welcome students' email communications to discuss personal issues and needs, and to consult with me about course work. Please include **INF 322T** in the subject line of your email messages. You can also make an appointment during my office hours to view your exams. I am only on campus on Tuesdays and Thursdays after class.

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. Plagiarism is defined here:

http://www.plagiarism.org/learning_center/what_is_plagiarism.html

Make-up exams are not given. If you miss an exam, then you will be required to take the comprehensive exam on **Tuesday, Dec. 16, 2014, 9:00-12:00 noon**. If you miss two exams, you will automatically get a zero for the third exam, so I suggest you drop the course.

STATEMENT CONCERNING STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Division of Diversity and Community Engagement, Services for Students with Disabilities, 512-471-6259. If you have a letter from the office of the Dean of Students which entitles you to special exam taking options, efforts will be made to accommodate your needs.

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.

Exams

Exam Format: Exams are 75-80 questions long and the final is comprehensive and is 100 questions long. Exams will not be handed out until everyone is seated. All cell phones, iPads, computers, and other electronic devices must be put away. **No headsets are allowed.** You will turn in both the scantron and the exam. At that time, **you must have a picture ID.** Consult the Class Calendar for your three exam times. Exam times cannot be changed unless you have a letter from the Office of the Dean of Students or you have made special arrangements.

Grading: Grades are based on **3 exams**, and one optional final (If you miss an exam and do not take the optional final, then your grade is divided by 4.)

I expect that for the three regular tests, students will be present and seated no later than 12:45 noon in order to take the test. Students arriving after 12:45 noon will need to take the final exam as their “make-up” for the regular test. For the final exam, I expect students to be seated by 9:15 a.m. If a student is absent for a regular test, I expect him/her to email me to explain why he/she was absent. If a student is absent for the final exam, I will assume that the student is satisfied with the grade he/she has earned on the three regular tests and has chosen not to take the optional final. However, if a student has missed a regular test, the final is required as the make-up for the missed test. I will take the three highest grades and average those for the final grade. (Again, if you have only taken two tests, your scores will be divided by 4 since you only took 2 out of the 4 required.)

You can choose an optional one or up to 2 points extra credit assignments. One can be a paper and/ or volunteer option. Grading scale for this class will be as follows:

- A = 90-100%
- B = 80-89%
- C = 70-79%
- D = 60-69%
- F = Below 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 CR.) **Grades are not rounded up. For example an 89.999 requires an extra credit paper to become an “A”.** The grade of X (incomplete) will be given only in cases of emergencies which have been reported at the time of the emergency. Do not come to me after the final to ask for extra credit to pass the class or bring your grade up. It will not happen.

Extra Credit: Any student who successfully completes one and only one from each of the choices for extra credit assignments from the two sections will receive one point extra credit each (one or two points added to class average). Extra credit options will be discussed the first day of class and are listed below.

What I Expect From Students

1. Attend all scheduled classes and arrive on time. Late arrivals and early departures are very disruptive.
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 let me know. It's hard for me to know sometimes what is happening from where I stand.
4. Be courteous to others during class discussions. All student contributions to the discussion are valued in this course. I expect my students to be respectful of other students and their opinions.
5. **Civility statement and code of conduct:** I expect students to be respectful to me, my TA, to guest speakers, and to the other students in the class

CHAPTER BOOKS-Required readings

EXAM I

	Grade	(Age)
<i>The Midwife's Apprentice</i> by Karen Cushman	7+	(12-17yrs.)
<i>Sarah Plain and Tall</i> by Patricia McLachlan	3-5	(8-10)
<i>Sign of the Beaver</i> by Elizabeth G. Speare	4-7	(9+)
<i>Holes</i> by Lois Sachar	3-7	(8+)
<i>Crispin, the Cross of Lead</i> by Avi	3-7	(8+)

EXAM II

<i>Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children</i> by Ransom Riggs	7+	(12+)
<i>The Giver</i> by Lois Lowry	3-7	(8+)
<i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i> by J.K. Rowling	4-7	(12+)
<i>The Graveyard Book</i> - Neil Gaiman	5+	(10+)
<i>The Lightning Thief</i> - Rick Riordan	5+	(10+)

EXAM III

<i>Bud, not Buddy</i> by C. Curtis	3-7	(8+)
<i>Hatchet</i> by Gary Paulsen	5+	(10+)
<i>Esperanza Rising</i> by Pam Munoz Ryan	6-7	(8+)
<i>Number the Stars</i> by Lois Lowry	4-7	(9+)
<i>Dead End in Norvelt</i> by Jack Gantos	5-9)	(10-14)

FINAL EXAM

<i>Julie of the Wolves</i> by Jean Craighead George	7+	(12+)
And all other books from previous exams		

Children's Literature Reserves Information (Where you can find the books on the lists.)

1. The collection is located in the Periodical Room (PCL 2.400). You can just walk through the lobby, and it's on the right.
2. PLEASE RETURN ALL BOOKS TO THE SHELVES AFTER READING!!
3. Ideally, use the books in an area near the collection. This will make sharing with classmates more efficient.
4. An extra copy of each title is available for formal check-out at the reserves desk in the lobby of PCL computer lab.
5. Quick questions can be answered at the Information & Research Help Desk and/or the Checkout & Reserves Desk.
6. Questions specific to this collection can be sent to EdLibrarian@lib.utexas.edu.

Extra Credit Options
Children's Literature, 322T
Dr. Veronica Pro Covington

EXTRA CREDIT IS DUE BY Dec. 4, 2014

You may turn in extra credit in class anytime during the semester or in my box in UTA 5.526 or email it to me before **Dec. 4, 2014**. On Dec. 4, 2014, you must turn it in to me, not in my box. **NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED. (I WILL NOT ACCEPT PAPERS DURING OR AFTER THE FINAL. Don't email me after the fact when you realize that an extra credit paper can bring up your average.)**

You can pick one project from the written section and one project from the public service section for a total of 2 pts. But only one from each section.

Written Projects

EXTRA CREDIT OPTION 1

Any student completing a two or two and a half-page, double-spaced, font size 12, typed essay critiquing and comparing two Newbery Award books (or one Newbery Award Book and another award book) will receive **1** point added to their final average. Please use the following titles listed by the beginning letter of your last name.

First Letter of Last Name	Newbery Award Books or other approved titles
A -F	<i>Crispin/The Midwife's Apprentice</i>
G-L	<i>Bud, Not Buddy / Esperanza Rising</i>
M-O	<i>Holes / Hatchet</i>
Q-T	<i>Harry Potter/ The Lightning Thief</i>
U-Z	<i>The Graveyard Book / Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children</i>
S – U	<i>Number the Stars</i>
V - Z	<i>The Giver</i>

What you might want to consider in crafting your essay:

1. Comparison and contrast of the characters, setting, plot, point of view, and theme of each book.
2. **You must include a summary of a review from one journal and site it. (Ex. *The Horn Book, School Library Journal*) Put this on your reference page or at the end of your paper. MLA style is acceptable.**
3. Ways the books could be of value or use to children. (Or of no value or use if this is your opinion.)
4. What do YOU think about the books?
5. You must include the year that the books got the Newbery Award and why you think it deserved it or why you think it should not have gotten the award. For the books that did not get the Newbery, make sure you list which awards they received.
6. Anything else that you see relevant to your essay.

EXTRA CREDIT OPTION 2

Prepare a power point presentation on any **Newbery** author or **Caldecott** illustrator. The presentation must include:

Biographical information

Picture or pictures of the author or illustrator.

List of books author has written or illustrator has illustrated.

A picture of the covers of at least 3 books and one has to be the one that won the award.

A minimum of 7 slides of content is required. (This does not include the title or the final reference page.)

Please let me know as soon as possible if you are planning to do this project so I can place your author or illustrator on a list of authors or illustrators taken. **I do not want duplicates.**

You can submit your project on-line, by emailing it to me, or handing in a CD.

Public Service Extra Credit.

(For all public service projects, you must submit a one page summary of your experience with your paperwork verifying your hour.) Forms are on Canvas.

The volunteer work needs to be documented with:

1. A contract signed by the person in authority who supervises your work. Make sure you include email and phone number for the supervisor.
2. A copy of the contract signed by the student.
3. A log of experience for the time you volunteered.
4. A one to one and a half-page reflection paper of your experience (12 pt. font).

Note: If you do not turn in all 4 documents you will not get credit.

Dr. Covington must have a signed verification of your volunteer work, with an email address and phone number of the person who has supervised your work so that she can verify your work. Students who falsify their records for volunteer work will not be given credit for volunteer work, and will **LOSE A POINT** for each infraction from their course average and will be reported to the Dean of Students' Office for disciplinary action. For example: you wrote down six notations with an hour each of volunteer work on the log you turned in and your supervisor only had you down for four hours. You lose 6 points from your final average. **(Yes, I have caught people, and they lost the points and the infraction was placed on their university record.)**

Project One: You can volunteer at any public or school library for 10 hours during the semester. (Forms will be posted on Blackboard.) The librarian must approve and verify your hours there.

Project Two: Volunteer Shelving books at the PCL in the Reserve Section that has the Children's Books for this class. (On the right across from the reserve and check-out desk). I will post the volunteer forms in the file section of Canvas. Your contact person is **Jannelle Hedstrom**. You must complete 10 hours before the end of the semester to get one credit point added to your final average.

Project Three: Volunteer to work (minimum of 10 hrs.) at the Texas Book Festival in Oct. 25-26, 2014.

<http://www.texasbookfestival.org/Volunteer.php>

You must take the log form with you and have the person that supervised you sign it and give me an email to contact to verify your attendance. If you work two days, and have different supervisors, then I need each supervisors' signature and email.

Other Class Procedures

Emergency Evacuation Policy: The following recommendations regarding emergency evacuation from the Office of Campus Safety and Security, 512-471-5767, <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/>

Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.

- Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.
- Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.
- In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors.
- Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.
- Link to information regarding emergency evacuation routes and emergency procedures can be found at: www.utexas.edu/emergency

Use of E-mail for Official Correspondence to Students: All students should become familiar with the University's official e-mail student notification policy. It is the student's responsibility to keep the University informed as to changes in his or her e-mail address. Students are expected to check e-mail on a frequent and regular basis in order to stay current with University-related communications, recognizing that certain communications may be time-critical. It is recommended that e-mail be checked daily, but at a minimum, twice per week. The complete text of this policy and instructions for updating your email address are available at

<http://www.utexas.edu/its/policies/emailnotify.html> .

Behavior Concerns Advice Line (BCAL): If you are worried about someone who is acting differently, you may use the Behavior Concerns Advice Line to discuss by phone your concerns about another individual's behavior. This service is provided through a

partnership among the Office of the Dean of Students, the Counseling and Mental Health Center (CMHC), the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), and The University of Texas Police Department (UTPD). Call 512-232-5050 or visit <http://www.utexas.edu/safety/bcal> .