

The University of Texas at Austin
School of Information
INF 328E (27190) Materials for Children - Fall 2019

Dr. Barbara A. Jansen, Adjunct Assistant Professor

Dates: September 9, 2019 to December 9, 2019

Class time: Mondays, 6 - 9 pm

Location: UTA 1.502

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.

Course description:

A survey of children's literature including literary materials in various formats suitable for use by and with children. Students will explore evaluation tools, application of selection and evaluation criteria, and planning for the use of materials.

Course objectives:

- Articulate the social and cognitive developmental levels of children and apply those levels to the understanding of children's right to read and view.
- Select quality literature that reflects and appeals to a wide range of diverse readers (e.g., diversity in race, language, ethnicity, culture, gender, sexual orientation, religion) and to analyze literature for cultural authenticity and absence of bias and stereotyping.
- Become familiar with a wide selection of children's literature and materials appropriate for ages 0-14, or birth through eighth grade.
- Recognize and select quality literature from all genres for children using a variety of resources and applying criteria for age appropriateness and literary excellence across genres.
- Provide leadership in schools, public libraries, and the broader community to promote meaningful engagement with quality literature in all formats.
- Work individually and in collaboration with peers to research and present scholarship relative to children's literature in professional settings.

Required textbook and trade books:

Textbook (available through University Coop, Amazon, or the publisher)

Vardell, S. (2019). *Children's Literature in Action: A Librarian's Guide (3rd ed.)*. Santa Barbara, CA: Libraries Unlimited (An imprint of ABC-CLIO, LLC.). ISBN 978-1-4408-6778-1

Trade books (available through University Coop or Amazon)

White, E.B. (1952). *Charlotte's web*. New York, NY: Harper & Row. (For study of literary elements)

Woodson, J. (2003). *Locomotion*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons. (For study of poetry genre)

Additional trade books for each week (choose one book to read from each genre or format if titles are provided, or bring appropriate book to class as listed for each genre). You may purchase through Amazon or other online resource, or find in a library of your choice. The PCL youth collection on the 6th floor has many books for each genre.

Study of literary elements

White, E.B. (1952). *Charlotte's web*. New York, NY: Harper & Row.

Challenged books (choose one)

Gino, A. (2015). *George*. New York, NY: Scholastic.

Federle, T. and Fisher, S. (2013). *Better Nate than ever*. New York, NY: Simon and Schuster Books for Young Readers.

Babies & toddlers

Bring to class one book appropriate for babies or toddlers (board book, concept book, alphabet book, nursery rhymes, etc.).

Picture books

Bring to class one recently published picture book.

Beginning readers

Bring to class one beginning reader.

Poetry

Woodson, J. (2003). *Locomotion*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons.

Realistic fiction (choose one)

Palacio, R. J. (2012). *Wonder*. New York, NY: Knopf Books for Young Readers.

Kadohata, C. (2004). *Kira Kira*. New York, NY: Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

Konigsburg, E. L. (1996). *The view from Saturday*. New York, N.Y: Atheneum Books for Young Readers.

Traditional literature

Bring to class one recently published traditional literature book in picture book format .

Fantasy (choose one)

Lowry, L. (1993). *The giver*. Boston, MA: Houghton Mifflin.

Riordan, R. (2005). *The lightning thief*. New York, NY: Miramax Books/Hyperion Books for Children.

Gaiman, N., and McKean, D. *The graveyard book*. (2008). New York, NY: HarperCollins.

Historical fiction (choose one)

Curtis, C. (1999). *Bud, not Buddy*. New York, NY: Delacorte Press.

Vanderpool, C. (2010). *Moon over Manifest*. New York, NY: Delacorte Press.

Cushman, K. (1995). *The midwife's apprentice*. New York, NY: Clarion Books.

Ryan, P. M. (2000). *Esperanza rising*. New York, NY: Scholastic Press.

Biography

Bring to class a recently published picture book biography. Choose a subject from a culture different from your own.

Informational books

Bring to class a recently published informational book in picture book format.

Graphic novels (choose one)

Bell, C. (2014). *El Deafo*. New York, NY: Amulet Books.

Telgemeier, R. (2010). *Smile*. New York, NY: Scholastic.

Additional readings: Required each week and are posted in the week's module in Canvas. (Complete alphabetical list [here](#).)

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. Bring your textbook and trade books as noted in each week's module.

Grading:

- In-class participation & attendance: 40%
- Weekly and in-class assignments: 40%
- Final project: 20%

In-class participation & attendance: Students are expected to be in class each session and participate actively, and to the best of his or her ability, in oral discussions and group activities. Readings for that week's class will prepare students for active participation in discussions and group work. This is a class in children's materials--there is a lot of reading. Participation points will be given for small and large group participation in selected activities each week. If you are in class and participate in each activity, you will receive credit--typically two points per participation event. *If you forget to bring a book in which we are using for an activity, or you are absent from class, you will receive no credit, unless you submit the assignment in written form before the next class session.* If the assignment was accomplished with a partner or partners, you will be required to submit all of the work that was completed in class. You have one week from the date the work was assigned to submit missed assignments. Attend all classes and bring required books. One excused absence will not count against a student's grade if prior notice of absence is received. If the absence is due to an emergency and prior notice is not possible, please notify the professor as soon as you can. *The opportunity to submit assignments due to an absence is not a free pass to miss class. The professor has the prerogative to cease allowing students to submit work if more than one class is missed.*

Weekly and in-class assignments: Students will occasionally have assignments that are due at the time class begins. Module readings **MUST** be completed before the beginning of that week's class. We will use the time in class to build upon the assigned

readings and written assignments, as well as exploring the course material in more depth. In most cases, students will be completing written 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. These assignments are typically worth 5-20 points.

If you are absent from class for any reason, you will receive no credit unless you submit the assignment *before* the next class session. If the assignment was accomplished with a partner or partners, you will be required to submit all of the work that was completed in class. You have one week from the date the work was assigned to submit missed assignments.

Students are expected to come to class prepared to actively participate each and every week. Please bring a fully charged, internet-connected device, your textbook, and the required children's book(s) with you to class each week. A laptop is preferable; a smart phone is not suitable as you will often share screens. Assignments must be submitted via Canvas unless otherwise directed.

Final project: Literacy grant proposal (details under development)

Course policies:

Review the course learning objectives, expectations, grading, and class schedule (below). Each student and the instructor must agree to contribute their very best work and agree to the below. One excused absence will not count against a student's grade. Prior notice of absence is required, unless the absence is due to an emergency before class. All assignments must be completed in order to make at least a C-. If a student fails to submit any major assignment, the highest grade attainable will be a C-. School of Information Grading Policy and UT Academic Integrity policy will be used.

Student responsibilities:

- Turn all assignments in on time. Late papers will receive one whole letter grade lower per day.
- Check and respond to email daily.
- Attend all classes. One excused absence will not count against a student's grade. Prior notice of absence is required. If a student misses class, the in-class assignments must be completed by the next class session. *The opportunity to submit assignments due to an absence is not a free pass to miss class. The professor has the prerogative to cease allowing students to submit work if more than one class is missed.* It is the responsibility of the student to contact the professor for make-up work.

- Turn in assignments at the beginning of the class session or by the time given. Assignments should be submitted in the format indicated for each unless otherwise specified.
- Read and understand expectations regarding the UT Policy on Academic Integrity and the School of Information Grading Policy.
- Respect all class members. Read and follow proper etiquette in e-mail and discussion board communication.

Professor responsibilities:

- Answer e-mail within 24 hours on weekdays.
- Evaluate assignments considering the assessment criteria.
- Provide feedback on assignments within 2 weeks of the due date.
- Assist students with the course content, administrative issues, or technological support.

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/>

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 (Kerrville) 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 three hours before class to see if class will be held online.