

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
SCHOOL OF INFORMATION
INF 322T (27645) Children's Literature – Fall 2015
Mondays, 6:00-9:00 p.m. in FAC 21

Assistant Adjunct Instructor: Marion Rocco

Office: UTA 5.460 (1616 Guadalupe)

Office Hours: After class or by appointment.

Telephone: 512-695-1296 (cell phone). No early or late calls, please.

Email: marionrocco@utexas.edu.

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

Office- UTA 1.210 (1616 Guadalupe)

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

Sunday 12 to 6

Online Office Google

Hangout: https://talkgadget.google.com/hangouts/_/g4p4bw3kagcndiumrijgephaa7ia

Skype: ischool.itlab

Telephone: 512-471-3991 DURING OFFICE HOURS ONLY

Email: coming soon

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 REQUIRMENTS

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 12.

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

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 assignments will be posted to Canvas (<https://canvas.utexas.edu/>). There is no printed course packet for this course.
- Required Children's Books:

For Quiz 1

1. *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White
2. *The One and Only Ivan* by Katherine Applegate
3. *Because of Winn Dixie* by Kate DiCamillo
4. *The Lion, the Witch, & the Wardrobe* by C.S. Lewis

For Quiz 2

5. *The Cay* by Theodore Taylor
6. *Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson
7. *Beowulf* by Robert Nye
8. *The Giver* by Lois Lowry

For Quiz 3

9. *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen
10. *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred D. Taylor
11. *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan

Assignments:

Students will complete ten online participation assignments through Canvas, three quizzes administered in class, and an ALSC Award Winner book paper. Students may choose to complete an optional final exam at the end of the semester.

Grades will be based on:

- | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|
| • Quiz 1: | 25 points | (October 5, 2015) |
| • Quiz 2: | 25 points | (November 2, 2015) |
| • Quiz 3: | 25 points | (November 30, 2015) |
| • Online Assignments: | 20 points | (weekly) |
| • ALSC Award Winner Paper: | 5 points | (due November 16, 2015) |

100 points total

Quizzes 1, 2, and 3 (25 points each)

The questions for the quizzes will be taken from materials discussed or viewed in class, assigned readings from the textbook and Canvas, and the required children's books. Each quiz will consist of 25 multiple choice, true/false, matching, and short answer questions.

Any student who misses a quiz will need to make up that quiz by completing the final exam.

Students who arrive more than 15 minutes late to a quiz will not be allowed to take the quiz. They will need to make up the quiz by completing the final exam.

All quizzes will be administered in class via Canvas. Students are expected to come to class with 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 quiz 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.

Online Participation Assignments (20 points)

Ten (10) online participation assignments worth 2 points each will be posted on Canvas throughout the course. These assignments will include participation in a discussion board, short book evaluations, book recommendations, etc.

ALSC Award Winner Paper (5 points)

For the ALSC Award Winner Paper, each student will choose an Award or Honor book from the Newbery, Pura Belpré, or Coretta Scott King awards to read on his or her own. Each student will then write a paper analyzing why it was chosen as a winner, using the criteria given by ALSC for each award. This paper should be approximately three double-spaced pages in length and should be submitted online through Canvas. Students may not review any of the required children's books from this course to complete this assignment. Additional details regarding the ALSC Award Winner Paper will be posted to Canvas.

Optional Final Exam

Any student who misses a quiz will need to make up that quiz by completing the final exam.

Students who have completed all three quizzes may choose to take the optional final exam and have their lowest quiz grade replaced by the final exam score. If the final exam score is lower than the quiz scores, the final exam score will be dropped.

The questions for the optional final exam will be taken from all materials discussed or viewed in class, assigned readings from the textbook and Canvas, and the required children's books. The

exam will consist of 50 multiple choice, true/false, matching, and short answer questions.

For Fall 2015, the final exam is scheduled for Monday, December 14 at 7:00 pm. Exam times cannot be changed unless you have a letter from the Office of the Dean of Students. Students who arrive more than 15 minutes late will not be allowed to take the final exam.

The optional final exam will also be administered via Canvas. Students are expected to come to the exam with a fully charged, internet-connected device to take the exam.

Grading:

The grading scale for this class will be as follows:

- A = 90-100 points
- B = 80-89 points
- C = 70-79 points
- D = 60-69 points
- F = Below 60 points

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. No plus or minus grades will be given.

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.

Course Schedule and Schedule of Required Readings:

***Please check Canvas for any additional readings that may be posted throughout the semester.

August 31 – Course Introduction

To prepare for class, read:
Textbook Chapter 1

September 7 – Labor Day Holiday, No Class

September 14 – Books for the Very Young; Elements of Fiction

To prepare for class, read:
Textbook Chapters 2 and 3
Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

September 21 – Picture Books and their Creators; the Caldecott Medal

To prepare for class, read:
Textbook Chapter 4
The One and Only Ivan by Katherine Applegate

September 28 – Children Learning to Read; Beginning Readers

To prepare for class, read:
Textbook Chapter 12
Because of Winn Dixie by Kate DiCamillo
The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis

October 5 – Quiz 1 – Arrive on time and bring a fully charged, internet-connected device
To prepare for the quiz, review all readings and in-class materials from 8/31 through 9/28

October 12 – History of Children's Literature; Current Challenges

To prepare for class, read:
Textbook Chapter 11
The Cay by Theodore Taylor
Bridge to Terabithia by Katherine Paterson

October 19 – Realistic Fiction; The Newbery Medal

To prepare for class, read:
Textbook Chapter 8
Hatchet by Gary Paulsen

October 26 – Traditional Literature

To prepare for class, read:
Textbook Chapter 6
Beowulf by Robert Nye

November 2 – Quiz 2 – Arrive on time and bring a fully charged, internet-connected device
To prepare for the quiz, review all readings and in-class materials from 10/12 through 10/26

November 9 – Fantasy & Science Fiction; Graphic Novels

To prepare for class, read:

Textbook Chapter 7

The Giver by Lois Lowry

November 16 – Historical Fiction; Biography

To prepare for class, read:

Textbook Chapter 9

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor

Esperanza Rising by Pam Muñoz Ryan

November 23 – Poetry; Informational Books

To prepare for class, read:

Textbook Chapters 5 and 10

November 30 – Quiz 3 – Arrive on time and bring a fully charged, internet-connected device

To prepare for the quiz, review all readings and in-class materials from 11/9 through 11/23