

# CHILDREN'S LITERATURE SPRING 2021 (28115)

**Assistant Adjunct Instructor: Kristen Oglesbee Ederer**

Office Hours: Online through Canvas Conferences (by appointment)

Email: [kristenoglesbee@utexas.edu](mailto:kristenoglesbee@utexas.edu)

The best way to reach me is by email- 24 hour email turnaround.

**Teaching Assistant: The iSchool IT Lab TA Pool**

Office- UTA 1.210 (1616 Guadalupe)

Telephone: 512-471-3991 DURING OFFICE HOURS ONLY

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

***For all email correspondence to the Professor and the TA Pool, please use a descriptive subject line that includes the name of the course and my name (for example: INF 322T-KO Question).***

## 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.

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

## Course Dates:

### Module 1: Why Children's Literature Matters and Know the Child, Know the Books



#### **Introductions**

Jan 31 | 5 pts

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#### **Charlotte's Web and Textbook Chapters 1 and 3 Quiz**

Jan 31 | 30 pts

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#### **Cognitive & language development**

Jan 31 | 5 pts

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#### **Charlotte's Web: Select One Element**

Jan 31 | 5 pts

### Module 2: Books for Babies, Books for Toddlers and Picture Books



#### **The Wednesday Wars**

Feb 7 | 5 pts

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#### **The Wednesday Wars and Books for Babies, Books for Toddlers Quiz**

Feb 7 | 30 pts

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#### **Babies and Toddlers: Book Evaluation**

Feb 7 | 5 pts

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#### **Picture Books**

Feb 7 | 5 pts

## Module 3: Books for Beginning Readers; Poetry



### **The Crossover and Poetry**

Feb 14 | 5 pts

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### **The Crossover and Beginning Readers & Poetry Quiz**

Feb 14 | 20 pts

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### **Children's Literature Poets**

Feb 14 | 40 pts

## Module 4: Reading Aloud and History



### **Wonder Discussion**

Feb 21 | 5 pts

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### **Read Aloud exercise**

Feb 21 | 10 pts

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### **Wonder and Reading Aloud and History Quiz**

Feb 21 | 20 pts

## Module 5: Intellectual Freedom



### **Intellectual Freedom**

Feb 28 | 5 pts

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### **Intellectual Freedom: Defending a challenged book**

Feb 28 | 5 pts

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### **Harry Potter and Intellectual Freedom/Censorship Quiz**

Feb 28 | 20 pts

## Module 6: Realistic Fiction



### Realistic Fiction

Mar 7 | 5 pts

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### Realistic Fiction Activity

Mar 7 | 10 pts

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### Better Nate Than Ever and Textbook Chapter 9 Quiz

Mar 7 | 20 pts

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### Children's Literature Project

Apr 18 | 100 pts

## Module 7: Traditional Literature



### The Tale of Despereaux and Textbook Chapter 7 Quiz

Mar 14 | 20 pts

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### Traditional Lit: Review

Mar 14 | 10 pts

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### Compare/Contrast a Folktale

Mar 14 | 20 pts

## Module 8: Fantasy and Science Fiction



### Fantasy and Science Fiction

Apr 4 | 5 pts

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### Fantasy: The Hero's Journey

Apr 4 | 10 pts

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### The Giver and Fantasy & Science Fiction Quiz

Apr 4 | 20 pts

## Module 9: Historical Fiction and Biography



### Historical Fiction Discussion

Apr 4 | 5 pts

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### Esperanza Rising and Textbook Chapters 10 and 11 Quiz

Apr 4 | 20 pts

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### Virtual jackdaw activity

Apr 4 | 5 pts

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### Historical Fiction Picture Books

Apr 4 | 5 pts

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### Extra Credit

Apr 4 | 1 pts

## Module 10: Informational Books



### Informational books: Evaluating nonfiction

May 2 | 5 pts

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### Brown Girl Dreaming and Textbook Chapter 11 Quiz

May 2 | 20 pts

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### Brown Girl Dreaming: Thematic Approach

May 2 | 10 pts

## Module 11: Graphic Novels



### Children's Literature Discussion

May 7 | 5 pts

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### Looking at Style in *El Deafo*

May 7 | 10 pts

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### *El Deafo* and Graphic Novels Quiz

May 7 | 20 pts

## Readings:

Required Textbook: Short, K.G., Lynch-Brown, C. & Tomlinson, C. (2017). *Essentials of Children's Literature (9th Edition)*

Required Canvas Readings: Additional reading and viewing assignments (including articles, websites, videos, and children's picture books) will be posted in the weekly modules on Canvas. 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. *Dead End in Norvelt* by Jack Gantos or *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan
10. *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson
11. *El Deafo* by Cece Bell

# Assignments:

Discussions 30%

Weekly Quizzes 20%

Assignments 30%

Project 20%

Total 100%

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## *Discussions:*

The discussions will take place in Canvas using the discussions tool and count as participation in the course. A few questions will be posted related to the topic and readings of the week. Students are required to post an initial discussion in 400 words or more to the board by Thursday night at 11:59pm CT each week and respond to two students in 150 words or more each by Sunday at 11:59pm CT. **I will not accept late posts to the discussion board.**

## *Weekly Quizzes:*

The questions for the quizzes will come out of the assigned textbook chapters and chapter books. These questions are meant to test that students have read the book and grasped some of the concepts of the book. The quizzes will be open for a full week and are due at 11:59pm CT on Sunday. **I will not accept late quizzes.**

## *Assignments:*

Students will participate in weekly assignments where they will be required to apply their understanding of the course material. The assignments will be based on concepts from the course textbook. **I will not accept late assignments.**

## *Project:*

Students will create a portfolio on Children's Literature topics. **I will not accept late projects.**

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## Grades:

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/>

## **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/>

## **Expectations:**

1. Complete all assignments on time. Assignments cannot be made up.
2. 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.