

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
SCHOOL OF INFORMATION
I 320 (28570) Children's Literature - Online - Fall 2021
Assistant Adjunct Professor Marion Rocco

Office Hours: By appointment in Zoom or Google Meet. Email me to set up a time.
Email: marionrocco@utexas.edu. Please include I 320 in the subject of your message. Also, remember that I work full time as an elementary school librarian and have limited availability during the day.

COURSE DESCRIPTION AND EXPECTATIONS

Description:

Children's Literature (I W320) 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

Expectations:

I 320: Children's Literature is a class that relies heavily on discussions, small group work, and individual writing and reflection. You will read and write regularly and extensively to meet the learning objectives. You will collaborate with your peers, think critically about the course material, and respond to works of children's literature in a variety of ways. Be prepared to participate and to play an active role in your own learning.

Consistent engagement is extremely critical in this course, as much of your learning will develop through weekly discussion, collaboration, and writing.

The discussion board will be a vital communication and collaboration tool in this online class. Weekly discussions are an opportunity to express ideas, share opinions, and learn from one another. Be courteous to others in the class discussions. All student contributions to the discussion are valued in this course. Students are expected to be respectful of others and their opinions. Disagree with ideas, but avoid challenges that may be interpreted as a personal attack. Assume the best of others and ask constructive questions with the intent of facilitating your shared growth and learning.

Readings

- **Required Textbook:** *Essentials of Children's Literature*, 9th ed., (2018), by Kathy G. Short, Carol Lynch-Brown, & Carl M. Tomlinson
- **Required Canvas Readings:** Additional reading assignments will be posted to this site. There is no printed course packet for this course.
- **Required Children's Books:**
 1. *Other Words for Home* by Jasmine Warga
 2. *New Kid* by Jerry Craft
 3. *Charlotte's Web* by E.B. White
 4. *The Wednesday Wars* by Gary Schmidt
 5. *Merci Suárez Changes Gears* by Meg Medina
 6. *El Deafo* by Cece Bell
 7. *The Crossover* by Kwame Alexander
 8. *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson
 9. One additional novel of your choice; details to be provided
- **Additional Required Children's Books:** For some classes, I will provide additional books for you to work with during the week. These will be much shorter in length than a novel, and most will be provided as read aloud videos. For a few classes, I will ask that you borrow a picture book from the PCL Youth Collection or from a public library. Details will be included in the weekly Canvas modules.

Grading:

Final grades will be determined on the basis of the following rubric. 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+.

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 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.

Grades will be based on:

Quizzes	20%
Discussions and Activities	40%
Projects	40%
Total	100%

Quizzes (20%)

A weekly quiz is included in each module. These quizzes will be based on readings from the textbook, short videos, and other required reading assignments. The weekly quizzes are open book, however you only have a limited time to complete them. Weekly quizzes are due by midnight each Thursday. *Missed quizzes may not be made up.*

Discussions and Activities (40%)

Because this is a fully asynchronous online class, we will use discussion boards and other activities to build upon the assigned readings and explore the course material in more depth. These discussion boards are a place for you to offer your initial ideas and understandings, test and hone your interpretations, and learn new ways of making meaning from literature. Think of the discussion boards as exploratory; they are conversations, not presentations. Your primary post is due by midnight each Thursday; you will also respond to at least two posts in your group by midnight each Sunday. Discussion posts *may not be made up if missed.*

Projects (40%)

You will complete three projects over the course of the semester. Each project is an opportunity to synthesize what you have learned through reading, discussion, and written reflection over the preceding weeks and demonstrate your knowledge and understanding. More details on your choices for each project are included in the project modules.

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.

Academic Integrity:

You are expected to abide by the core values of the University and uphold the principles of academic integrity for all the work you do in this class. Concerns regarding your conduct in this class will be referred to the [Dean of Students](#) for investigation.

Due Dates:

All work must be turned in by the due date. No late work will be accepted.

Quizzes and discussion posts *may not be made up if missed*. Projects may only be made up in the case of an emergency.

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.

To make up a project, a student with an emergency must notify the instructor and present documented evidence of the excuse within 48 hours of the missed deadline.

Religious Holidays:

By UT Austin policy, a student must provide notification of a pending absence at least fourteen days prior to the date of observance of a religious holy day. The student will be given an opportunity to complete the missed work within a reasonable time after the absence.