

**Materials for Children and Young Adults**  
**INF 382G.03, Unique 28304**  
**UTA 1.208**

(Tentative syllabus for enrollment decisions--  
subject to slight changes for Spring 2021 course)

**Dr. Barbara A. Jansen**

Dates: January 25 - May 3, 2021: Mondays 6:00pm-9:00pm. Hybrid format.

Office hours: Anytime by appt. via Zoom.

Email: Email must be sent through Canvas in order to document and save student/professor correspondence. Please do not email the professor directly.

Twitter: @bjansen

**This course is a hybrid format.** The professor will choose the class dates we will meet at the University. If Covid-19 is in a harmful stage, we will meet online. If Covid-19 has diminished where it is not a threat to our health, we will meet on occasion at the University. There is course content that lends itself to in-person participation.

**Web-based class requirements:** For those classes that meet online, they WILL be synchronous via Zoom (you must have a UT Zoom account). You will need a laptop with a camera and microphone/speakers. Students must use a camera and may use virtual backgrounds if desired. We will need to see you and hear you. Also, headphones or earbuds are required so we do not hear background noises such as barking dogs or TV. An iPad or other tablet may not have the features for the class work we will do throughout the program, as you will need multiple tabs open, the ability to easily copy and paste, share files, collaborate with classmates using Google Docs, and create graphics, etc. And, of course, a good internet connection is critical.

**Course description:**

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

**Course objectives:**

- Articulate the social and cognitive developmental levels of children and young adults and apply those levels to the understanding of young people'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, learning ability, physical ability, domestic reality, among others) and to analyze literature for cultural authenticity and absence of bias and stereotyping.
- Explore a wide selection of literature and other materials (eBooks & audiobooks, podcasts, subscription databases) appropriate for ages 0-18, or birth through twelfth grade.
- Recognize and select quality literature from all genres for children and young adults 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 textbooks and trade books:**

**Textbooks** (available through University Coop, Amazon, or the publisher)

Brock, R. (2019). *Young adult literature in action: A librarian's guide* (3rd ed.). Libraries Unlimited. ISBN 978-1440866937

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 Amazon, your favorite bookstore, or public library):

Additional trade books for each week: Choose one book to read from each genre or format if titles are provided, or bring appropriate book(s) to class as listed for each genre. You may purchase through Amazon or other online resource, or find in a library of your choice. *Kindle format is acceptable for novels/chapter books. Picture books must be in physical format.* The PCL youth collection on the 6th floor has many books for each genre, but may not have the specific novels (chapter books) required.

### **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.

Thomas, A. (2017). *The hate u give*. Balzer + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

### **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 (choose one)**

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

Acevedo, E. (2020). *The poet X*. HarperTeen, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

### **Contemporary realistic fiction (choose one)**

Medina, M. (2018). *Merci Suárez changes gears*. Candlewick Press.

King, A. S. (2020). *Dig*. Penguin Books.

Smith, C. L. (2018). *Hearts unbroken*. Candlewick Press.

Zoboi, I. (2018). *American street*. Balzer + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

### **Graphic novels (choose one)**

Telgemeier, R. (2019). *Guts*. Graphix logo, an imprint of Scholastic.

Alexander, K. (2020). *The crossover: Graphic novel* (D. Anyabwile, Illus.). Andersen Press.

Liu, M. M. (2018). *Monstress: Awakening* (S. Takeda, Illus.). Image Comics.

### **Traditional literature**

Bring to class one recently published traditional literature in picture book format and, **(choose one)**:

Donnelly, J. (2020). *Stepsister*. Scholastic Press.

Lo, M. (2010). *Ash*. Little, Brown.

### **Fantasy (choose one)**

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.

Ruby, L. (2019). *Thirteen doorways, wolves behind them all*. Balzer + Bray, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers.

### **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.

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

Pérez, A. H. (2019). *Out of darkness*. Holiday House.

### **Biography**

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

and **(choose one)**:

Krosoczka, J. (2019). *Hey, kiddo: How I lost my mother, found my father, and dealt with family addiction*. Scholastic.

Gharib, M. (2019). *I was their American dream: A graphic memoir*. Clarkson Potter.

### **Informational books**

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

and

Reynolds, J., & Kendi, I. X. (2020). *Stamped: Racism, antiracism, and you*. Little, Brown and Company.

**Additional readings:** Articles, blog posts, videos, and other readings are required each week and are posted in the week's module in Canvas.

### **Grading:**

In-class participation & attendance: 35%

Weekly and in-class assignments: 40%

Literacy grant proposal: 25%

**In-class participation & attendance (35%):** Students are expected to be in class each session and participate actively in oral discussions and group activities. Readings for

that week's class will prepare students for active participation in discussions and group work and must be completed *before* class.

Grades will be given for small group participation in selected activities each week. These assignments are typically worth 2 points. If you are in class and participate in each activity, you will receive credit. If you forget to bring materials in which we are using for an activity, or you are absent from class for any reason, you will receive no credit until you submit the assignment in written form. 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 and make up the three hour class.

**Weekly and in-class assignments (40%):** Students will occasionally have assignments that are due at the time class begins. See the week's module for assigned work and the due date and time. Module readings **MUST** be completed before the beginning of that week's class. We will use 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.

**Important note:** Attend all classes and bring required materials. One absence will not count against a student's grade if prior notice of absence is received and all classwork is made up within a week of the absence. 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.

**Literacy grant proposal: 25%**

**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 responsibilities below. One excused absence will not count against a student's grade, but any missed work must be made up prior to the next class session. Prior notice of absence is required, unless the absence is due to an emergency before

class. School of Information Grading Policy and UT Academic Integrity policy will be used.

**Student's responsibilities:**

- Turn all assignments in on time.
- Check and respond to email daily M-F.
- 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 email, Zoom, and discussion board (Canvas) communications.

**Professor's responsibilities:**

- Answer email 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 (as appropriate).

**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 ([Links to an external site.](#)).