

**The University of Texas at Austin
School of Information**

INF 322T Children's Literature
Fall 2016
Unique #28035

Barbara A. Jansen, Ph.D., Adjunct Assistant Professor

Dates: August 29-December 5, 2016

Class time: 3:00-6:00 pm

Location: UTC 3.134

Office hours: after class, outside of the classroom; or by appointment (phone or Skype), or Mondays outside PAR 203 from 11:20-11:50 am.

Email: All student correspondence to the professor **MUST** be sent through Canvas in order to document and archive email.

Email format: Because the professor teaches more than one class, please include a descriptive subject line that begins with 322T (e.g. *322T Question about today's class*)

Twitter: @bjansen

The iSchool IT Lab TA Pool:

Office: UTA 1.210

Office Hours: (subject to change)

- **Monday & Tuesday:** 8:30am - 9:30pm
- **Wednesday & Thursday:** 8:30am - 10pm
- **Friday:** 8:30am - 4:00pm
- **Sunday:** 12:00pm - 6:00pm

Online Office Google

Hangout: https://talkgadget.google.com/hangouts/_/g4p4bw3kagcndiumrjgephaa7ia ([Links to an external site.](#))

Skype: ischool.itlab

Telephone: 512-471-3991 DURING OFFICE HOURS ONLY

Email: ta_pool@ischool.utexas.edu

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 (birth through grade 8).

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
- choose and create activities to use in the K-12 classroom to extend children's knowledge and appreciation for literature

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 and viewing assignments (including articles, websites, video, and children's picture books) will be posted on the course Canvas pages <https://utexas.instructure.com/courses/1176149>. 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. *The Golden Compass* by Philip Pullman
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
10. *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson
11. *El Deafo* by Cece Bell

Additional 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.

Grading:

Online Assignments and Quizzes 20%
In-Class Participation, Quizzes, and Activities 40%
Midterm Exam 20%
Final Exam 20%
Total 100%

Online Assignments and Quizzes (20%)

Modules for each week's material will be posted on Canvas throughout the course. These may include readings (articles, websites, picture books), videos, and short assignments. Each module will include a brief open-book quiz on the assigned readings. These quizzes must be completed prior to the start of class each week.

In-Class Participation, chapter book quizzes, and activities (40%)

We will use in-class time to build upon the assigned readings and explore the course material in more depth. In most cases, students will be completing closed-book quizzes and writing activities in-class as well as engaging in discussions and group assignments. Students are expected to come to class prepared to actively participate each and every week. Please bring a fully charged, internet connected device as well as the required children's book with you to class each week. For many classes, students will also be asked to bring an additional book with them (from the PCL, Austin Public Library, or other library) to use as part of the in-class assignments.

Closed-book quizzes and in-class assignments may not be made up, however the lowest closed-book quiz grade will be dropped.

Midterm exam 20%

Administered the Monday before Spring Break

Final exam 20%

Administered the last day of regularly scheduled class

Exams:

The questions for the two exams will be taken from materials discussed or viewed in class, assigned readings from the textbook and additional readings assigned each week in Canvas modules, and the required children's books.

Students who arrive more than 15 minutes late to an exam will not be allowed to take the exam.

All exams will be administered in class via Canvas. Students are expected to come to class with a photo ID and a fully charged, internet-connected device to take the quizzes. If a student does not have a 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 exam 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.

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

Expectations:

INF 322T: Children's Literature is not a lecture course. Instead, classes are student-centered and rely heavily on whole class discussions, small group work, and individual writing and reflection. During class, you will be expected to collaborate with your peers, think critically about the course material, and respond to readings and other materials in a variety of ways. Come prepared to participate and to play an active role in your own learning.

While in class, the focus of your attention should be on the course material and assigned classroom activities. Much of the work you do will require the use of a laptop or tablet. Plan to use your laptop or tablet only for our in-class work. It is considered unprofessional and can also be a distraction to others to use your device for other activities during class.

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.

Attendance:

Attend all scheduled classes and arrive on time. Late arrivals and early departures are very disruptive. *It is critical that you attend each class session.*

Due Dates:

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

Partner and group in-class assignments *may not* be made up if missed. Individual assignments may only be made up in the case of an emergency. A student with an emergency should notify the instructor and present documented evidence of the excuse as soon as possible. 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.

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/> ([Links to an external site.](#)) ([Links to an external site.](#))
([Links to an external site.](#)) ([Links to an external site.](#))

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/> ([Links to an external site.](#))
([Links to an external site.](#))

Inclement Weather:

Because the professor commutes from out of town 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 login from their physical location of choice and participate live online. On days of inclement weather, students should check email at least two hours before class to see if class will be held online.

Course Schedule (subject to slight changes):

August 29 – Course Introduction; Why Children’s Literature Matters: Know the child, Know the books

To prepare for class, read: *Charlotte’s Web*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

September 5 – Labor Day, no class

September 12 – Books for Babies, Books for Toddlers

To prepare for class, read: *The Wednesday Wars*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

September 19 – Picture Books and their Creators; the Caldecott Medal

Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

September 26 – Reading Aloud; Books for Beginning Readers; Poetry

To prepare for class, read: *The Crossover*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

October 3 – History of Children’s Literature; Current Challenges

To prepare for class, read: *Wonder*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

October 10 – Censorship and Intellectual Freedom

To prepare for class, read: *The Golden Compass*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

October 17 – Midterm Exam Administered in Class

Arrive on time and bring a fully charged, internet-connected device, preferably a tablet or laptop. If you arrive more than 15 minutes late, you will not be able to take the exam.

October 24 – Realistic Fiction; The Newbery Medal

To prepare for class, read: *Better Nate Than Ever*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

October 31 – Traditional Literature

To prepare for class, read: *The Tale of Despereaux*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

November 7 – Fantasy; Science Fiction

To prepare for class, read: *The Giver*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

November 14 – Historical Fiction and Biography

To prepare for class, read: *Dead End in Norvelt*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

November 21 – Informational Books

To prepare for class, read: *Brown Girl Dreaming*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

November 28 – Graphic Novels; Texas Book Awards

To prepare for class, read: *El Deafo*. Complete the accompanying module and quiz in Canvas.

December 5 – Final Exam Administered in Class

Arrive on time and bring a fully charged, internet-connected device, preferably a tablet or laptop. If you arrive more than 15 minutes late, you will not be able to take the exam.