

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN
SCHOOL OF INFORMATION
INF 322T (27825) Children's Literature – Spring 2017
Wednesdays, 6:00-9:00 p.m. in UTC 4.110

Assistant Adjunct Professor: Ann Minner

Office: UTA 5.460 (1616 Guadalupe)

Office Hours: After class or by appointment.

Telephone: 512-939-0022 (cell phone). No early or late calls, please.

Email: annminner@utexas.edu.

During the day, I work as a public librarian and I cannot answer my cell phone when I am on the floor. 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 8:30am to 4pm

Sunday 12pm to 6pm

Online Office Google

Hangout: https://talkgadget.google.com/hangouts/_/g4p4bw3kagcndi umrjgephaa7ia

Skype: ischool.itlab

Telephone: 512-471-3991 DURING OFFICE HOURS ONLY

Email: ta_pool@ischool.utexas.edu

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). Please include your name and UT EID in the correspondence.

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 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:

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 works of children's literature 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 other device. Plan to use your laptop or other device 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. Please do not schedule other appointments or trips during this class time.

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.

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:
 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. *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Muñoz Ryan
 10. *Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson
 11. *El Deafo* by Cece Bell

We will read these children's books in the order listed above. Please see the schedule for more details.

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.

Grades will be based on:

Online Modules and Quizzes	20%
In-Class Participation and Activities	40%
Midterm Exam (March 8, 2017)	20%
Final Exam (May 3, 2017)	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, 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 and Activities (40%)

We will use our in-class time to build upon the assigned readings and explore the course material in more depth. In most cases, students will be completing writing activities in-class as well as engaging in discussions and group assignments. Partner and in-class assignments *may not be made up if missed*.

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.

Midterm and Final Exams (20% each)

The questions for the exams will be taken from materials discussed or viewed in class, assigned readings from the textbook and Canvas, 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 fully charged, internet-connected device to take the exams. 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 exam dates listed in this syllabus and plan ahead. We will not be able to accommodate students who forget devices!

Please bring your UT ID to each exam.

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 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.

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.

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/>

Schedule Spring 2017

January 18 – Course Introduction; Why Children’s Literature Matters

Complete the accompanying [module and quiz](#) in Canvas.

January 25 – Know the Child, Know the Books

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

February 1 – Books for Babies, Books for Toddlers

To prepare for class, read: *The Wednesday Wars*. Complete the accompanying [module and quiz](#) in Canvas. Bring one baby book to class with you.

February 8 – Picture Books and their Creators

Complete the accompanying [module and quiz](#) in Canvas. Bring one picture book to class with you.

February 15– Books for Beginning Readers; Poetry

To prepare for class, read: *The Crossover*. Complete the accompanying [module and quiz](#) in Canvas. Bring one beginning reader to class with you.

February 22 – Reading Aloud; History of Children’s Literature & Current Challenges

To prepare for class, read: *Wonder*. Complete the accompanying [module and quiz](#) in Canvas. Bring one book to read aloud to class with you.

March 1 – Censorship and Intellectual Freedom; Midterm Exam In-Class Review

To prepare for class, read: *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*. Complete the accompanying [module and quiz](#) in Canvas.

March 8 – Midterm Exam Administered in Class

Arrive on time and bring a fully charged, internet-connected device.

March 22 –Realistic Fiction; The Newbery Medal

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

March 29 –Traditional Literature

To prepare for class, read: *The Tale of Despereaux*. Complete the accompanying [module and quiz](#) in Canvas. Bring one work of traditional literature in picture book format to class with you.

April 5 – Fantasy; Science Fiction

To prepare for class, read: *The Giver*. Complete the accompanying [module and quiz](#) in Canvas.

April 12 – Historical Fiction and Biography

To prepare for class, read: *Esperanza Rising*. Complete the accompanying [module and quiz](#) in Canvas. Bring one biography in picture book format to class with you.

April 19 – Informational Books

To prepare for class, read: *Brown Girl Dreaming*. Complete the accompanying [module and quiz](#) in Canvas. Bring one informational book to class with you.

April 26 – Graphic Novels

To prepare for class, read: *El Deafo*. Complete the accompanying [module and quiz](#) in Canvas. Bring one graphic novel to class with you.

May 3 – Final Exam Administered in Class

Arrive on time and bring a fully charged, internet-connected device. 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.