

University of Kentucky
School of Library and Information Science

Critical Analysis of Youth Literature
(Formerly, Critical Analysis of Children's Literature)
LIS 611
Section 001

Spring 2007
January 10 – April 27
Wednesdays, 4:30 – 7:00 p.m.
Location: TBA

Professor Sharon McQueen

Office: King Library, Room 520
Office phone: (859) 257-3771
E-mail: s.mcqueen@uky.edu
Web site: <http://www.uky.edu/~smcqu2/>
Mail Box: Located in King Library, Room 502 (SLIS Main Office)
SLIS (dept.) phone: (859) 257-3317
Office Hours: One hour immediately following each class session, or by appointment.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This advanced course covers evaluation, reviewing, literary criticism, award processes, publishing, and current trends in the field(s) of literature for youth. The term “youth” is used to encompass two age groups delineated within the field of librarianship: children (individuals from birth through eighth grade or junior high school age) and teens or young adults (individuals from 12 to 18 years of age). The course provides students with an opportunity to learn about many aspects of these areas, including historical aspects, and also provides students with an opportunity to participate fully in the 2006 McConnell Children's Literature Conference. Emphasis will be placed on picture books and fiction novels.

Some of the objectives of this course are as follows:

- To hone skills and increase expertise in youth literature evaluation.
- To hone skills and increase expertise in the presentation of youth literature.
- To develop proficiency in the writing of literary critiques and book reviews.
- To improve research capabilities in youth literature.
- To build an understanding of early books and influences for added perspective of youth literature.

Prerequisite: LIS 510 or LIS 610 or LIS 514 or permission of the instructor.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

TBA

Complete, unabridged editions of the literature. Most of these titles will be available through public and academic libraries. Many will be available in the UK Education Library or in The McConnell Center for the Study of Youth Literature, a reference only collection located in King Library South. All McConnell Center books must remain in the Center. An extensive reading list will be provided prior to the first day of class. Students are strongly encouraged to begin reading as soon as they receive this list.

Required reserve readings are located in the Center for Applied Information Technology (CAIT), located in King Library South, Room 504. As you enter the CAIT, reserve readings are on the shelves on the right.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Egoff, Sheila, ed. Et al. *Only Connect: Readings on Children's Literature*. NY: Oxford University Press, 1996.

Horning, Kathleen T. *From Cover to Cover*. New York: HarperCollins, 1997.

Russell, David L. *Literature for Children: A Short Introduction*, 5th ed. Boston: Allyn & Bacon, Pearson Education, 2005.

Sutherland, Zena. *Children & Books*, 9th ed. New York: Longman, 1997.

Recommended reserve readings are located in the Center for Applied Information Technology (CAIT), located in King Library South, Room 504. As you enter the CAIT, reserve readings are on the shelves on the right.

ATTENDANCE & PARTICIPATION:

Students are expected to attend all class sessions, arrive on time, and remain in class for the scheduled time period. Students are also expected to participate fully in class discussion and exercises. Attendance, punctuality, and participation will be reflected in course grades. A student's record in these areas can have a significant impact on a student's overall grade in the course. Excused absences are not usually approved. If, for some reason you cannot attend class, you are expected to notify the instructor in advance and make arrangements with another student to acquire any distributed hand-outs or class notes.

Students are required to attend and assist with the implementation of The McConnell Youth Literature Conference and the Arbuthnot Lecture. Students of LIS 611 will be admitted free of charge (will not be charged the \$95 conference registration fee). The 2007 conference, entitled *In Celebration of Anne McConnell*, will be held March 2-3 at

the Embassy Suites in Lexington. Featured speakers will be authors Susan Campbell Bartoletti and Cari Best and illustrator Loren Long. In addition, nationally known practitioners will present sessions. Students are expected to sign in and out at the following times:

Friday, March 2: 4:30pm to end of Autograph Signing clean-up
(approximately 10:00pm)

Saturday, March 3: 7:30am to end of Closing Session clean-up
(approximately 5:00pm)

Sunday, March 4: 4:00pm to end of Arbuthnot Reception
(approximately 9pm)

Roughly half the students of LIS 611 will present at The McConnell Conference. Roughly half the students of LIS 611 will present at the course culminating event, which is a book discussion with a group of sixth grade students. LIS 611 Students will be assigned to one or the other presentational opportunity at the sole discretion of the instructor.

ASSIGNMENTS:

Assignments will consist of an author and an illustrator presentation, Newbery and Caldecott discussions, a written review, a publishable work of literary criticism, and a research paper. Individual projects require extensive critical reading of the literature. Written assignments will be due at the start of class unless otherwise noted in the syllabus. Late assignments will receive a lowered grade. Assignments will not be accepted later than one week past the due date. No assignments will be accepted past the last class session. All assignments must be word processed, well-written, and carefully edited. For further guidance, please refer to the handout, *Checklist for a Minimally Acceptable Written Paper*.

Those students who need assistance with their writing should make use of:

The Writing Center
W.T. Young Library, Thomas D. Clark Study, 5th Floor, West Wing
<http://www.uky.edu/AS/English/wc/>
Phone: (859) 257-1356

COURSE POLICIES:

Please see the following site for a comprehensive guide to *Student Rights and Responsibilities*: <http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/>

As a student of the University of Kentucky, you are expected to have read and understood this document. Any suspected case of academic misconduct will be pursued as per the procedures laid down in Part II, Section 6.4 of this document. Submitting work previously submitted for another class constitutes academic misconduct.

Plagiarism and cheating refer to the use of unauthorized books, notes, or otherwise securing help in a test; copying tests, assignments, reports, or term papers; representing the work of another as one's own; collaborating, without authority, and with another student during an examination or in preparing academic work; or otherwise practicing scholastic dishonesty.

PLEASE NOTE:

It is my desire to fully include persons with disabilities in this course. Please let me know **within the first two weeks of class** if special accommodations are necessary to enable you to fully participate. All students requesting accommodations need to be registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and have official U.K. accommodation letters to provide to each of their faculty.

GRADING:

Illustrator Presentation:	10%
Author Presentation:	10%
Newbery Discussion:	10%
Caldecott Discussion:	10%
Review:	10%
Literary Criticism Paper:	20%
Research Paper:	30%

GRADE SCALE:

A+	97-100
A	93-96
A-	90-92
B+	87-89
B	83-86
B-	80-82
C+	77-79
C	73-76
C-	70-72
D+	67-69
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	Below 60

Final grades for this course will be assigned to graduate students as follows:

A	90-100
B	80-89
C	70-79
E	0-69

According to the Graduate School *Bulletin*:

The grading in graduate courses is done according to the following scale:

- A High achievement
- B Satisfactory achievement
- C Minimum passing grade
- E Failure
- I Incomplete

Grade of I (incomplete): The incomplete grade is intended ONLY for students who are not able to complete the assigned course work on schedule due to serious illness or other highly unusual personal circumstances.

SCHEDULE & ASSIGNMENT INSTRUCTIONS: TBA