

University of Kentucky
School of Library & Information Science
Critical Analysis of Children's Literature
LIS 611.401
Spring 2008

Syllabus

Instructor

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Office Hours

- Tuesday/Thursday: 11:00am – 1:00pm
- Wednesday: After class as needed
- By Appointment

Class Information

- Wednesday: 6:00pm – 8:30pm
- McConnell Center (504A King Library)

Course Description

Advanced study of book evaluation, literary criticism, children's book publishing, awards, and current trends in the field. Individual projects require extensive critical reading.

Course Purpose

The purpose of this course is to improve the ability to discern high-quality books and illustrations; to gain knowledge of literary criticism and its importance in the improvement in the arena of children's literature; and to develop an appreciation of the wide scope of implications in the field of children's literature.

Course Objectives

- To achieve expertise in judging the quality of children's books.
- To study literary criticism as it pertains to children's books, with the intent of developing a degree of proficiency in writing original critiques and book reviews.
- To improve research capabilities in the field of children's literature.
- To develop a foundational understanding of children's book and to develop comprehension of current trends effecting children's books produced for today's market.

Student Expectations

Students enrolling in this course are expected to be proficient in both reading and writing English. All papers/projects should be written in either 12-point Times New Roman or Arial (other similar fonts are acceptable) and formatted using APA style. Attendance at all class meetings is expected.

Required Reading

Required Texts: Lukens, R. J. (2007). *A critical handbook of children's literature* (8th ed.). Boston: Pearson Allyn and Bacon.

Children's Literature: For the complete list of required children's literature for this class, please see the Amazon.com list for this class at:

<http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/226GUX52FDXP0>.

Other Required Reading: Journal articles and other readings will be available via Blackboard on an as needed basis.

Integration of the Syllabus with the Themes of Diversity, Assessment, and Technology

All UK professional education programs address and affirm the value of diversity in education, the use of technology to support all aspects of instructional programming, and the importance of attaining high levels of skill in assessing the outcomes of instruction. This course will provide students an opportunity to demonstrate attention to these themes and reflect on the mechanisms that this course has provided to demonstrate improved skills in these areas.

Integration of Syllabus with UK Educator Preparation Unit Themes

This course supports the four themes of the conceptual framework for the UK professional education unit: **research**, **reflection**, **learning**, and **leading**. The ultimate goal is to produce leaders who work together to improve service and learning among diverse populations in Kentucky and beyond.

Evaluation

Class Participation – 20%

Author/Illustrator Presentations – 20%

Book Review – 5%

Critical Analysis Paper – 10%

Caldecott/Newbery/Printz Presentations – 15%

Research Paper – 25%

Newbery Discussion – 5%

Grading Scale

90% – 100% A

80% – 89% B

70% – 79% C

0% – 69% E

Participation

Class attendance and participation are an important component of your grade for this class. Please contact me if you will be unable to attend a class meeting.

Communications

You may communicate with me via Blackboard, e-mail or phone. E-mail will elicit the timeliest response. While I am generally available on the weekends and will always respond as quickly as I can, please do not anticipate a response after Friday business hours have ended.

Submission of Course Assignments

All course work, including discussion posts and peer reviews, are expected to be academically appropriate. This means that your work has been spell checked and that it has been punctuated properly including complete sentences and proper capitalization. While instant messaging has its place, this course is not it. Proper English is expected. If you need assistance with writing skills, please contact the UK Writing Center (<http://www.uky.edu/AS/English/wc/>). Citations and formatting should follow the APA Publication Manual (<http://www.apastyle.org/pubmanual.html>).

Assignments

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the dates indicated on the course schedule below. You may be asked to submit some assignments via Blackboard. Points will be deducted for incomplete work, such as missing citations and papers with access spelling or grammatical errors (please use spell check).

Academic Integrity

All of your work for this class is expected to be original work. You may not use work submitted for a grade in another class or collaborate with anyone unless required for completion of the assignment. Proper citations are expected for all sources used for any course work. Please review the University's plagiarism policy.

<http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part1.html>

<http://www.uky.edu/Ombud/Plagiarism.pdf>

<http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html> (section 6.3.1)

Incompletes

Student requests for an Incomplete (an I grade) will be considered within University guidelines and only in extreme circumstances. See section 5.1.3.2

<http://www.uky.edu/StudentAffairs/Code/part2.html>.

Late Work

All course assignments are expected to be submitted on time. Late work will be lowered 10 points for every day it is late. Assignments will not be accepted more than 5 days after the due date.

Class Schedule (subject to modification)

January 09, 2008	Introduction; Conference Assignments; Reading List Discussion; Author/Illustrator Selection; Mock Voting
January 16, 2008	ALA Awards Discussion; Book Review Titles Due
January 23, 2008	Illustrator Presentations & Picture Book Discussion
January 30, 2008	Traditional Literature Discussion; Bios Due
February 06, 2008	Author Presentations & Genre Discussion
February 13, 2008	Realistic Fiction/Bibliocognition Discussion; Critical Analysis Topic Due
February 20, 2008	Fantasy/Science Fiction Literature Discussion
February 27, 2008	Research Paper Topic Due; McConnell Conference Preparation & Practice
February 29 – March 1	40 th McConnell Conference
March 05, 2008	No Class (unless we need to make up a snow day)
March 12, 2008	Spring Break
March 19, 2008	Critical Analysis Discussion
March 26, 2008	Book Review Due and Discussion of Books Reviewed
April 02, 2008	Critical Analysis Paper Due; Non-Fiction Literature Discussion
April 09, 2008	Research paper planning and assistance. Class attendance optional due to Final Exams on the 11 th .
April 16, 2008	Prepare for Open Discussion
April 23, 2008	Research Papers Due & Final Presentations
April 30, 2008	Newbery Award Books – Open Discussion

Specific paper/project guidelines will be provided in class.

Research Paper Guidelines

Specifications: 2,500-3,000 words; double-spaced; APA style formatting and citations.

Possible Topics:

- Attitudes and mores in children's literature
- The culture of poverty in children's books of a particular era
- Multiculturalism in children's literature
- Depiction of traditional heroes versus modern heroes
- Depictions of a defined group in picture books
- Comparison of an identified issue from two cultural perspectives
- Pros and cons of realistic young adult fiction
- Coming of Age stories in children's literature
- Opposing viewpoints: sex, violence, strong language, etc. in children's literature

Recommended Journals

The Alan Review

Book Links

Booklist

Children's Literature

Children's Literature Association Quarterly

Children's Literature in Education

English Journal

Horn Book

Journal of Youth Services in Libraries

Library Quarterly

Library Trends

The Lion and the Unicorn

School Library Journal

School Media Quarterly

Voya

Notable Children's Illustrators

Mitsumasa Anno

Molly Bang

Marc Brown

Ashley Bryan

Eric Carle

Bryan Collier

Barbara Cooney

Floyd Cooper

Donald Crews

Pat Cummings

Tomie dePaola

David Diaz

Leo and Diane Dillon

Richard Egielski

Lois Ehlert

Tom Feelings

Stephen Gammell

Diane Goode

Michael Hague

Kevin Henkes

Tana Hoban

Pat Hutchins

Trina Schart Hyman

Ezra Jack Keats

Steven Kellogg

E. B. Lewis

Betsy Lewin

Ted Lewis

Leo Lionni

David Macaulay

Robert McCloskey

Emily Arnold McCully

David McPhail

James Marshall

Fred Marcellino

Barry Moser

Brian Pinkney

Jerry Pinkney

Patricia Polacco

Chris Raschka

Allen Say

John Schoenherr

Maurice Sendak

David Shannon

David Small

Lane Smith

Diane Stanley

William Steig

Nancy Tafuri

Chris Van Allsburg

Rosemary Wells

Don Wood

David Wiesner

David Wisniewski

Paul O. Zelinsky