

Course Syllabus

Course Information

ED/LIT 3315-001 and ED/LIT 3315-501
Children's Literature
2007 Spring

Professor Contact Information

Dr. Patricia Leek

972-883-4407

patricia.leek@utdallas.edu (UTD
email only)

Office hours – CBW, Tuesday
11:30AM – 2:30PM; Thursday
9AM – 10AM; FN 3.206, by appt.

Course Pre-requisites, Co-requisites and/or Other Restrictions

Students are expected to show above average skills in the following areas:

Critical reading, writing, and thinking skills

Basic to mid-level computer skills (Internet, Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, etc.)

Time-management skills

Effective study skills

Effective communication skills

Ability to reason and make sound judgments

Course Description

This course is a broad introduction to children's literature, focusing on the genres and concepts of publications for children from picture books to informational books. Learning experiences are designed to encourage the greatest possible dialogue (both written and oral) and exchange of views and ideas related to children's literature. Students will develop critical abilities in examining publications for children and will be required to do wide reading in the genres. The primary emphasis will be on the materials themselves, but you will also be expected to become familiar with the extensive variety of resources available for children's literature.

Student Learning Objectives/Outcomes

The students will describe and discuss the historical, social, and psychological contexts as well as the characteristics of various genres of children's literature in reflections, classroom discourse, both written and oral, and creation of a summative portfolio.

The students will appreciate the role of children's literature in the aesthetic, efferent, and analytical growth of children as shown in their formative reflections, summative portfolios, and achieving a passing score on embedded exams.

The students will analyze, study, and respond to children's literature genres and illustrative techniques by successfully creating a graphic representation and writing a reflective essay, developing individual projects, creating a portfolio representing their learning in the course, and achieving a passing score on embedded exams.

Required Textbooks and Materials

Bang, Molly. (2000) *Picture this: How pictures work*. Seastar Publishers. (ISBN 1-5871-7030-2)

Microsoft Office Suite (including Microsoft Word & PowerPoint) - available on campus for a low price because of a campus-wide purchase agreement. Take advantage of this opportunity! Your work must be in Microsoft Word or PowerPoint for my assignments.

Russell, David L. (2004) *Literature for children: A short introduction, 5/e*. New York: Pearson Education. (ISBN 0-8013-3086-6)

Wide reading across the genres is important. Some readings are listed in the calendar and are available online. You will need to read many children's books, primarily of your own choice, that are available at libraries.

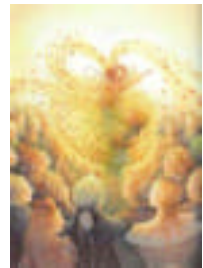
Suggested Course Materials

Zipes, Jack, et al. *The Norton Anthology of Children's Literature*. W. W. Norton & Co., Inc. (ISBN 0393327760). (Excellent source for various genre and traditional tales).

Assignments & Academic Calendar

Class 1, 1-9

Topics: Course introduction - syllabus; What is children's literature?; Traditional tales (Cinderella tales)...history
<http://www.surlalunefairytales.com/cinderella/history.html> ...versions available at
<http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/type0510a.html#jacobs> (read a sampling when you get a chance, but before test 2)



Class 2, 1-16

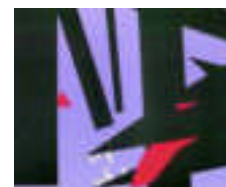
Topics: **Chapter 1** - History of Children's Literature (read chapter before class);
Chapter 6 - Books of early childhood (read chapter before class)



Class 3, 1-23

Topics: **Chapter 2** - The study of childhood (read chapter before class);
Picture This: How Pictures Work (Read book before class).

Assignments: My Favorite Illustration Day (bring reflection and artifact).



Class 4, 1-30

Online class for Russell Chapter 5– Cultural and social diversity (read chapter) and complete online class assignments for attendance.

Class 5, 2-6

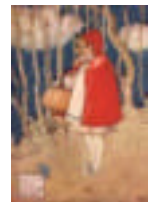
Topics: **Chapter 7** – Picture Books (read chapter before class); **Chapter 4** – Responding to Literature (Reader-response/transactional Analysis).

Assignments: My Favorite Caldecott Award Winner Day (any honor or medal) - (bring reflection and artifact).



Class 6, 2-13

Topics: **Chapter 3** - The Study of Literature (read chapter before class); Traditional tales (Red Riding Hood tales) <http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/type0333.html> (read a sampling before class); Test review.



Class 7, 2-20

Test One (Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4 (reader-response), 5, 6, 7, Molly Bang, class handouts and notes).

Class 8, 2-27

Topics: **Chapter 9** – Poetry (read chapter before class).

Assignments: My Favorite Poetry or Poet Day (bring reflection and artifact); **Molly Bang Creative assignment and essay due (Submit by the beginning of class today).**

No Class, 3-6 - Spring Break

Class 9, 3-13

Topics: **Chapter 11** – Realistic and Historical Fiction (read chapter before class).

Assignments: My Favorite Newbery Medal Winner Day (bring reflection and artifact).



Class 10, 3-20

Topics: **Chapter 12** – Biography and Informational books (read chapter before class).

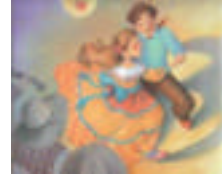
Assignments: My Favorite Children's Literature Informational Book Day (bring reflection and artifact).



Class 11, 3-27

Topics: **Russell Chapter 8** - Folk Literature (read chapter before class).

Assignments: My Favorite Traditional Tale Version Day.



Class 12, 4-3

Topics: **Chapter 10** – Fantasy (read chapter before class); Appendix (read chapter before class); Fables. <http://www.aesopfables.com/> (read a sampling before class).

Assignment: My Favorite Children's Literature Author Day (bring reflection and artifact).

Class 13, 4-10

Topics: Share individual assignments; test review.

Assignments: **Individual Projects due today.**

Class 14, 4-17

Topics: To Be Announced – **SNOW DAY** (If a class is cancelled due to inclement weather, or if we need to spend more time on a topic, this day will be used as necessary.)



Assignments: **“My Children's Literature Favorites Portfolio” due. Submit by the beginning of class today.**

Class 15, 4-24

Test Two (Comprehensive, but focusing on Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Appendix, Folk Literature, Molly Bang, handouts, and notes).

Grading Policies

Tests

100 Points (50 per Test)

Exams will include material from the readings, lectures, and handouts. The first test will focus on Chapters 1-7, Molly Bang, lectures, and handouts. The second test will be comprehensive, but will focus on Chapters 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, Awards, lectures, handouts, folk literature readings, & Norton's readings.

Projects/papers (Directions will be provided in class)

1. 32 Points – Molly Bang Creative Assignment + 600-1000 word Essay in APA or MLA format (12pt font, Courier New or New Times Roman) double space) – use either the APA or MLA Style Manuals
2. 34 Points – Individual Project + one – two page rationale for academic accountability (Where did your idea come from; how is it appropriate for a designated age group; etc.?)
3. 34 Points – “My Children’s Literature Favorites” Portfolio. You will create a PowerPoint portfolio of your best “My Favorites” reflections and artifacts (other work for this class may be included).

Grading Scale for Children’s Literature

60%	64%	68%	70%	74%	78%	80%	84%	88%	90%	94%+
120	128	136	140	148	156	160	168	176	180	188
D-	D	D+	C-	C	C+	B-	B	B+	A-	A

Course & Instructor Policies

Attendance is essential. Attendance will be tracked and absences (for any reason) and tardies or leaving early will seriously impact final grades.

- Three tardies (or leaving early) = One absence ... Arriving more than 20 minutes late or leaving more than 20 minutes early constitutes missing a half class, not a tardy.
- Two absences = Twenty (20) point deduction from final number of points earned
- Three or more absences = You may be asked to withdraw from the course, or you may receive a failing grade, depending on the individual circumstances and communication with the instructor.
- Attendance must also be met for online classes by completion of specified tasks related to each of the classes. You must complete the online class assignment before the beginning of the subsequent onsite class.

Policies

- Read the assigned material and complete homework assignments BEFORE class. Take part in discussions, in-class assignments, and group work. Be prepared to ask questions about material you do not understand.
- You are responsible for determining and making up any work that you miss due to an absence. You should arrange to have a "class buddy" collect handouts, communicate information, and inform you about the material covered.
- The instructor will not “pre-grade” assignments. Pre-grading gives some students an unfair advantage and should not be necessary for university students. The writing lab in the library can provide assistance. Also, peer review can be very helpful.
- Quality, neat work is expected. Work will be graded based upon the instructor’s evaluation of the quality of the work as well as completion of the work. Average work will result on average grades.
- Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the days listed in the calendar, unless stated otherwise. Assignments are to be completed and turned in on time; late assignments will not be accepted. If an assignment is not turned in on time due to

serious illness or another grave reason, contact the instructor before (if at all possible) class to arrange for an extension. Depending on the circumstances and your communication with the instructor, the assignment will either be accepted for full credit, a 25% deduction will be taken, or all points will be lost.

- Exams will be taken only on the dates listed in the syllabus; make-up tests will not be given except for extreme situations. The testing environment will be honored for the good of all. Once an exam begins, the instructor will not converse with anyone for any reason.
- Professionalism, attendance, positive participation, and timely fulfillment of the requirements are expected.
- The instructor reserves the right to assign a grade of F (failing) to any student who does not complete all aspects of the course.

Extra Credit. No extra credit is planned.

Technology.

- The course will use WebCT. Directions will be provided in class.
- NO emailed assignments will be accepted! If you are not in attendance to turn in your assignment at the beginning of class on the day due, you must deliver a hard copy to the instructor or to the Teacher Development Center (FN 3.118), if at all possible.
- Technology problems are NOT acceptable excuses for late work! Complete your assignments enough in advance to make sure your computer, Internet provider, printer, Blackboard, etc. are in working order such that you can turn in your work on time. Save your work often and seek advice and resources from the campus technology help desks, if necessary.

Field Trip Policies/ Off-campus Instruction and Course Activities. - N/A

Student Conduct & Discipline

The University of Texas System and The University of Texas at Dallas have rules and regulations for the orderly and efficient conduct of their business. It is the responsibility of each student and each student organization to be knowledgeable about the rules and regulations which govern student conduct and activities. General information on student conduct and discipline is contained in the UTD publication, *A to Z Guide*, which is provided to all registered students each academic year.

The University of Texas at Dallas administers student discipline within the procedures of recognized and established due process. Procedures are defined and described in the *Rules and Regulations, Board of Regents, The University of Texas System, Part 1, Chapter VI, Section 3*, and in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*. Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations (SU 1.602, 972/883-6391).

A student at the university neither loses the rights nor escapes the responsibilities of citizenship. He or she is expected to obey federal, state, and local laws as well as the Regents' Rules, university regulations, and administrative rules. Students are subject to discipline for violating the standards of conduct whether such conduct takes place on or off campus, or whether civil or criminal penalties are also imposed for such conduct.

Academic Integrity

The faculty expects from its students a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one's own work or material that is not one's own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records. Students suspected of academic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary proceedings.

Plagiarism, especially from the web, from portions of papers for other classes, and from any other source is unacceptable and will be dealt with under the university's policy on plagiarism (see general catalog for details). This course will use the resources of turnitin.com, which searches the web for possible plagiarism and is over 90% effective.

Email Use

The University of Texas at Dallas recognizes the value and efficiency of communication between faculty/staff and students through electronic mail. At the same time, email raises some issues concerning security and the identity of each individual in an email exchange. The university encourages all official student email correspondence be sent only to a student's U.T. Dallas email address and that faculty and staff consider email from students official only if it originates from a UTD student account. This allows the university to maintain a high degree of confidence in the identity of all individual corresponding and the security of the transmitted information. UTD furnishes each student with a free email account that is to be used in all communication with university personnel. The Department of Information Resources at U.T. Dallas provides a method for students to have their U.T. Dallas mail forwarded to other accounts.

Withdrawal from Class

The administration of this institution has set deadlines for withdrawal of any college-level courses. These dates and times are published in that semester's course catalog. Administration procedures must be followed. It is the student's responsibility to handle withdrawal requirements from any class. In other words, I cannot drop or withdraw any student. You must do the proper paperwork to ensure that you will not receive a final grade of "F" in a course if you choose not to attend the class once you are enrolled.

Student Grievance Procedures

Procedures for student grievances are found in Title V, Rules on Student Services and Activities, of the university's *Handbook of Operating Procedures*.

In attempting to resolve any student grievance regarding grades, evaluations, or other fulfillments of academic responsibility, it is the obligation of the student first to make a serious effort to resolve the matter with the instructor, supervisor, administrator, or committee with whom the grievance originates (hereafter called "the respondent"). Individual faculty members retain

primary responsibility for assigning grades and evaluations. If the matter cannot be resolved at that level, the grievance must be submitted in writing to the respondent with a copy of the respondent's School Dean. If the matter is not resolved by the written response provided by the respondent, the student may submit a written appeal to the School Dean. If the grievance is not resolved by the School Dean's decision, the student may make a written appeal to the Dean of Graduate or Undergraduate Education, and the dean will appoint and convene an Academic Appeals Panel. The decision of the Academic Appeals Panel is final. The results of the academic appeals process will be distributed to all involved parties.

Copies of these rules and regulations are available to students in the Office of the Dean of Students, where staff members are available to assist students in interpreting the rules and regulations.

Incomplete Grade Policy

As per university policy, incomplete grades will be granted only for work unavoidably missed at the semester's end and only if 70% of the course work has been completed. An incomplete grade must be resolved within eight (8) weeks from the first day of the subsequent long semester. If the required work to complete the course and to remove the incomplete grade is not submitted by the specified deadline, the incomplete grade is changed automatically to a grade of **F**.

Disability Services

The goal of Disability Services is to provide students with disabilities educational opportunities equal to those of their non-disabled peers. Disability Services is located in room 1.610 in the Student Union. Office hours are Monday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; Tuesday and Wednesday, 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; and Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The contact information for the Office of Disability Services is:
The University of Texas at Dallas, SU 22
PO Box 830688
Richardson, Texas 75083-0688
(972) 883-2098 (voice or TTY)

Essentially, the law requires that colleges and universities make those reasonable adjustments necessary to eliminate discrimination on the basis of disability. For example, it may be necessary to remove classroom prohibitions against tape recorders or animals (in the case of dog guides) for students who are blind. Occasionally an assignment requirement may be substituted (for example, a research paper versus an oral presentation for a student who is hearing impaired). Classes enrolled students with mobility impairments may have to be rescheduled in accessible facilities. The college or university may need to provide special services such as registration, note-taking, or mobility assistance.

It is the student's responsibility to notify his or her professors of the need for such an accommodation. Disability Services provides students with letters to present to faculty members to verify that the student has a disability and needs accommodations. Individuals requiring special accommodation should contact the professor after class or during office hours.

Religious Holy Days

The University of Texas at Dallas will excuse a student from class or other required activities for the travel to and observance of a religious holy day for a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property tax under Section 11.20, Tax Code, Texas Code Annotated.

The student is encouraged to notify the instructor or activity sponsor as soon as possible regarding the absence, preferably in advance of the assignment. The student, so excused, will be allowed to take the exam or complete the assignment within a reasonable time after the absence: a period equal to the length of the absence, up to a maximum of one week. A student who notifies the instructor and completes any missed exam or assignment may not be penalized for the absence. A student who fails to complete the exam or assignment within the prescribed period may receive a failing grade for that exam or assignment.

If a student or an instructor disagrees about the nature of the absence [i.e., for the purpose of observing a religious holy day] or if there is similar disagreement about whether the student has been given a reasonable time to complete any missed assignments or examinations, either the student or the instructor may request a ruling from the chief executive officer of the institution, or his or her designee. The chief executive officer or designee must take into account the legislative intent of TEC 51.911(b), and the student and instructor will abide by the decision of the chief executive officer or designee.

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the Professor.