

IS 571 Resources and Services for Children¹

Spring 2009

Section 001 & Section 002

Tuesdays 6:30PM - 9:10PM

BEC 116/Centra

Instructor: Kimberly Black

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Office Hours: Thursdays 12:30 – 2:00 and by appointment

Course Description:²

Critical survey of books and related materials for children, development of genres. Evaluation, selection, and utilization for school and public libraries.

Prerequisites: None

Course Objectives:³

By the end of this course, you will

- Begin to understand the importance of story and narrative in all human lives
- Become familiar with the genres of traditional literature, picture books, speculative literature, poetry and rhymes, fiction, modern realism and informational books. To understand characteristics of each genre, and issues and problems involved in reading each genre.
- To be able to articulate one's responses to literature across a variety of media. To exhibit a wide repertoire of flexible reading strategies for interpreting literature.
- To understand social influences upon writing and reading literature. These influences include: ideology, human diversity, censorship, power, and socially constructed views of aesthetics.
- To find personal satisfaction and enjoyment in children's books as you work on the requirements of this course.

Required Text:

¹ Much of the content of this syllabus has been borrowed from "IS 571 Course Schedule" by Jinx Watson, January 2007

² From <http://www.sis.utk.edu/courses/listings>

³ Objectives adopted from Fiona F.H. Liu, PoChing Wang and Hsiu-Ping Yueh. *Teaching Children's Literature* <http://hypermedia.educ.psu.edu/k-12/400block/s402.html> accessed January 2008

A Critical Handbook of Children's Literature, 8th Edition
Rebecca J. Lukens
Allyn & Bacon, 2006
ISBN-10: 0205492185
ISBN-13: 978-0205492183
List Price: \$67.60 USD
Street Price: approx. \$45.00 USD

Children's Texts:

Texts	Date of In-class discussion
<i>Charlotte's Web</i> - E. B. White	Jan 27
<i>Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key</i> - Jack Gantos	Feb 3
<i>When the Circus Came to Town</i> - Polly Horvath	Apr 7
<i>It's Our World Too</i> - Philip Hoose	Apr 21

Method of Instruction:

The course will consist of lectures, discussion, in-class and written assignments. The Blackboard course management system will also be used extensively in the course. Please log into Blackboard **at least once every week** to see if any new information from the course has been posted and to participate in online discussions. The course will be delivered online synchronously using the Centra symposium system which can be accessed from the following URL: <http://www.liveonline.utk.edu/> Students may elect to attend the virtual meeting in BEC Room 116 on the UT campus. Physical attendance of BEC is optional and not required (face-to-face students, you may elect to attend virtually for any or every class meeting).

Academic Honesty:

The highest standards of academic honesty and integrity are expected; cheating and plagiarism are simply unacceptable. Any student found guilty of cheating or plagiarism on any class assignment or test will be given a grade of F for the course. Definitions and details of the university policy on academic honesty can be found in *Hilltopics* (http://dos.utk.edu/files/hilltopics_08-09.pdf). The policy specifically states (p. 40):

“Study, preparation and presentation should involve at all times the student’s own work, unless it has been clearly specified that work is to be a team effort. Academic honesty requires that the student present his or her own work in all academic projects, including tests, papers, homework, and class presentation. When incorporating the work of other scholars and writers into a project, the student must accurately cite the source of that work.”

Adaptations or Accommodations:

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a documented disability, please contact the Office of Disability Service at 191 Hoskins Library or at 865-974-6087. This will ensure that you are properly registered for services.

Attendance:

Attendance will be noted but is not required. Regular class attendance is strongly encouraged.

Assignments and Grading:

The following grading scale will apply to all assignments and to the final course grade:

A	100 - 92
B+	91 - 84
B	83 - 76
C+	75 - 68
C	67 - 60
D	59 - 52
F	51 - 0

Lukens Paper (25% of final grade)

Due February 10

“In order to gain an understanding of the art and technique of literature criticism as it is applied to children’s literature, a) re-read chapters 3-9 of Lukens’ *A Critical Handbook of Children’s Literature*; b) re-read E.B. White’s *Charlotte’s Web* as a touchstone book to appreciate Lukens’ insights into the elements of literature; c) and prepare a written critical appraisal of one of the Landmark books. The double-spaced, word-processed, 12-15 page paper must include these parts: a) a brief plot summary intended for a child you want to entice to read the book; b) discussion, with examples from the book, of each of the literary elements discussed in Lukens in this order: character, plot, setting, theme, point of view, style, tone; c) summary critical evaluation of the book; in this section, discuss and comment upon 3 reviews of the chosen landmark book from appropriate book review journals.”

Book Notes Assignment (25% of final grade)

First half (5 books) due date March 10

Second half (5 books) due April 21

“As soon as you begin this course, keep in mind that you will select one Landmark book title for the Lukens paper. Throughout the semester, read and

evaluate 10 books for children from the two lists [2 “classics” (list a) and 8 “landmark books” (list b)]. You may also select from the ALA Notable lists from the last 5 years (in addition to list b). The point is to read NEW titles, stretch, get to know the authors that students do read and deserve to read! Please read across genre; read only one sample of best authors. You will turn in your notes (which may be either hand written or typed) for evaluation. More instructions are to follow on a separate sheet.” One of your Book Notes titles will be the subject of your Lukens paper.

Picture Book Analysis (25% of final grade)

Due March 24th

Read and “be with” one Caldecott Award or Caldecott Honor picture book. Discuss the choices and decisions the illustrator made to seek unity of text and illustrations in use of media, design of elements, and style. Notice how the pictures support the text. Ask yourself what do the pictures tell which the text does not? How does this winner achieve the “seamlessness” of picture and text to which Maurice Sendak alludes? Notice the “whole” book - typography, layout, endpapers, frontispiece, size, shape of book, pages, characters, etc. which support and extend each book's themes.

Participation and Book Talk (25% of grade)

Due - throughout the course

Your active participation in various elements of discussion includes: (1) in-class discussion and participation, (2) giving one formal book talk to the class, and (3) Centra text chat contributions (pertaining to the course content) in class.

Calendar:

A calendar of lectures is on the following table.

Week	Date	Topics
1	Jan 13	Welcome Introduction Overview of Course
2	Jan 20	Context of Children's Books <i>I will be out of town – Centra only class (BEC 116 will be open)</i>
3	Jan 27	Elements of Narrative: Character, Plot and Theme
4	Feb 3	Elements of Narrative: Setting, Point of View and Tone
5	Feb 10	Lukens Paper due – no class meeting
6	Feb 17	Genre: Modern Realism
7	Feb 24	Genre: Historical Fiction
8	Mar 3	Picture Books: Technique, Style and Media
9	Mar 10	Picture books: Elements of Design First half of <i>Book Notes</i> assignment due
10	Mar 17	No class – spring break
11	Mar 24	Genre: Poetry Picture Book Analysis due <i>I will be out of town – Centra only class (BEC 116 will be open)</i>
12	Mar 31	Genre: Traditional Literature
13	Apr 7	Genre: Speculative/Fantasy Fiction <i>COA site visit</i>
14	Apr 15	Literature Across the Curriculum
15	Apr 21	Genre: Information, Reference and Nonfiction Books Second half of <i>Book Notes</i> assignment due
16	Apr 27	Final exam week begins

Please Note: The instructor reserves the right to modify the course schedule, readings and requirements.