VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF LIBRARY& INFORMATION SCIENCE
MLIS 7420 Literature for Youth—Syllabus
Spring Semester 2007
Three Hours Credit

Instructor:

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Course Description
A survey of books and related materials for use with students and library patrons aged pre-kindergarten through grade 12.

Course Objectives
At the conclusion of the course, the student will be:
1. Conversant with numerous categories, authors, and specific titles in youth literature.
2. Experienced with presenting literature to groups of youth.
3. Familiar with youth literature awards and review sources.
4. Able to recommend appropriate literature to young people of diverse ages, racial and ethnic backgrounds, and reading needs.

Course Prerequisite or Corequisite: None.

Required Course Materials

> McCracken, Elaine M., et al. *Children's and Youth Services Staff Handbook*.
>   Atlanta: Georgia Public Library Service, 2002. Available only online:
>   http://www.georgialibraries.org/lib/child/childmanual.pdf

> Literature Reading List: see below.

> Additional Reading Assignments will be posted in WebCT Vista.

Optional Materials

> Lynch-Brown, Carol and Carl M. Tomlinson. *Essentials of Children's Literature*.
>   5th ed. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2004.

> Donelson, Kenneth L. and Alleen Pace Nilsen. *Literature for Today's Young
>   Adults*. 7th ed. New York: Allyn and Bacon, 2004.

Required Activities

Literature Modules	60%
Discussion Board Exercises	20%
Story Time	10%
Book Talk	10%

Grading

General Grading Scale

A excellent work - among the best work seen at the graduate level
B satisfactory work - better than average work at the graduate level
C honest attempt - needs moderate to major revisions to be satisfactory
D perfunctory or missing work

Late work is dropped one letter grade

Final Grading Scale

A - always satisfactory, often excellent
B - mostly satisfactory, occasionally excellent
C - sometimes satisfactory, often needs revisions
D - rarely satisfactory, often perfunctory, late or missing
F - lacking even an attempt to learn or do, dishonesty, plagiarism

Attendance
This is a Web-delivered course, with no required face-to-face meetings and no required synchronous online times.

Communication
We will use WebCT Vista as our primary communication tool. You should be able to access the class in Vista beginning on January 8.

For help with **WebCT Vista**:

Visit http://www.valdosta.edu/vista/. Read carefully. Scroll down and read entire screens. Notice "Self-Help" on the right.

If this doesn't solve the problem, phone VSU's IT Helpdesk, 229-245-4357. To see Helpdesk hours**:** visit http://www.valdosta.edu/helpdesk/ **(**see on the left, scroll down).

Calendar

January 8	Class begins
January 11	"Getting Started" posts due
January 15	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday
January 18	Group names due
Feb 1	Module 1 due
Feb 8	Discussion I due
Feb 15	Discussion I response due
March 1	Module 2 due
March 2	Midterm: deadline for dropping classes without academic penaly
March 8	Discussion II due
March 12-16	Spring Break—yahoo!
March 22	Discussion II response due
March 29	Module 3 due
April 5	Discussion III due
April 12	Discussion III response due
April 26	Module 4 due
May 3	Story Time due; Book Talk due

Academic Dishonesty

"Valdosta State University expects that graduate students will pursue their academic endeavors and conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner. All work that a student presents to satisfy course requirements should represent his or her own efforts, including appropriate use and acknowledgement of external sources. Specific regulations related to student conduct and behavior are contained in the *Student Handbook, Student Code of Ethics*.

Special Needs Statement

Valdosta State University is an equal opportunity educational institution. It is not the intent of our institution to discriminate against any applicant for admission or any student or employee of the institution based on the sex, race, religion, color, national origin or handicap of the individual. It is the intent of the institution to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and subsequent executive orders as well as the Title IX section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Students requesting accommodations or modifications because of a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in room 1115 Nevens Hall. The phone numbers are 229/245-2498 (voice) and 229/219-1348 (tty).

Assignments: Due on Thursdays by 11:59 p.m.

Four Literature Modules: see page 6.

Discussion Board Exercises. These will be posted in appropriate topics on the Discussion Board within WebCT Vista. One will be our "Getting Started" activities, see below. The topics for other discussion exercises will include readability graphing, reading encouragement programs, and review sources. Details will be posted in WebCT Vista.

"Getting Started" has five things to do. Numbers 1 and 2 are due on *Thursday, January 11*.

1. In WebCT Vista, look on the Discussion Board for "Meet the Class." Open the post and follow the directions. You will introduce yourself to the class. Include:
   - where you live
   - your current job if any
   - what you hope to do after you finish school
   - if you wish, something you did over the holiday break.
   - If you have a digital photo you're willing to share, send it as an attachment to your post.

2. Using WebCT Vista mail, send me a mail message. Let me know these things:
   - What made you decide to take this course?
   - What you hope to get out it.?

3. In the text, read the "Child Development" section: pp. 1-9 (pp. 10-18 of 151).

4. Begin work on the other assignments, particularly the literature modules; see below.

5. Become acquainted with Fry's Readability Graph and try it out on two or three books you have at hand. See http://school.discovery.com/schrockguide/fry/fry.html

Story Time, due May 3.

You will share a complete book or books with a group of children of pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, or elementary school age. The group must number at least 5. Your own children or other relatives may be included, provided that children from outside your family outnumber your family members. Choose literature that is age-appropriate. Accompanying activities may include songs, movement activities, or arts activities. Record this information:

- brief description of the group
- date and location of the story time
- author
- title
- publisher
- publication date
- visual aids used
- accompanying activities, if any;
- What worked well?
- What will you change next time?

You will post a brief report, based on these bullets, in the Assignment Tool within WebCT Vista.

Book Talk, May 3.

You will introduce a book or books to a group of youth of middle school or high school age. The objective is to inspire your listeners to read the book or books themselves. The group must number at least 5. Your own children or other relatives may be included, provided that children from outside your family outnumber your family members. Choose literature that is age-appropriate. You may choose to use several books on the same topic or theme. Record this information:

- brief description of the group
- date and location of the book talk
- author
- title
- publisher
- publication date
- visual aids used
- accompanying activities, if any;
- What worked well?
- What will you change next time?

You will post a brief report, based on these bullets, in the Assignment Tool within WebCT Vista.

Please note: the Book Talk and Story Time due dates are toward the end of the semester so that you have maximum flexibility in scheduling them. You are *welcome* and *encouraged* to do them sooner.

Literature Modules

For each title, record this information:

> **Author; Title; Place of Publication; Publisher; Date of Publication; Brief Description; Recommended Grade or Age Level; Suggested Uses.**
>
> **As an option, also record other information that you expect to find helpful. Accelerated Reader level might be one example.**
>
> **You may record this information in whatever manner you wish, provided that it can be transmitted electronically. Word processing documents, data base documents, and Web pages have been used in the past. You will post your modules in the Assignment Tool within WebCT Vista.**
>
> **One reason we are recording this information: if your principal or director ever walks in and says, "You can have more money if you can get it spent by Friday," I want you to have a "wish list" ready to use. Keeping this in mind may help you decide what information to record and what format to use.**
>
> **For Recommended Grade or Age Level: Grade or Age Level often appears on the item, in a review. You can also sometimes find suggested grade or age levels via online booksellers. To calculate this yourself, use Fry's Readability Graph:** http://school.discovery.com/schrockguide/fry/fry.html.
>
> **Under Suggested Uses, you might also record "non-uses," students or situations for which the title would be particularly _in_appropriate.**

In general, "double dipping" is not allowed, which means that the same item can't count for more than one category. An exception to this is that in the _Videos/CDs/Websites_ category, titles may duplicate but may not replace titles in other categories.

"Talking book" versions of the titles are fine, provided that they are unabridged.

Award Lists: To find current lists of award winners, do a Google search of the name of the award (putting the name of the award in quotation marks often helps). For award book requirements, titles that received "Honorable Mention" recognition may be used.

The literature titles are arranged in four modules.

Due dates will be Thursdays at 11:59 p.m.

See below for titles in each Module.

Module 1, due February 1:

1. Series books: One from each of: Lemony Snicket; Mary Kate & Ashley; Magic Treehouse; Bluford Series; Artemis Fowl; a series book by Matt Christopher; a series book by R. L. Stein, for a total of 7 books.

   The Lemony Snicket *must* be one of the original series books, and *not* one that is labeled "Movie Tie-in."

2. Graphic novels: Three from either Kat Kan's list *The Double Dozen*, available online at http://pdfs.voya.com/VO/YA2/VOYA200612double_dozen.pdf, or from "Great Graphic Novel Nominations" at http://www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/booklistsawards/greatgraphicnovelsforteens/nominations.htm for a total of 3 books.

Module 2, due March 1:

1. 6 Caldecott Award Books: 2 published 1938-65, 2 published 1966-96, 2 published 1997-present.

2. 6 Newbery Award Books: 2 published 1955-75, 2 published 1976-96, 2 published 1997-present.

3. 4 Georgia Children's Book Awards winners: 2 from the Picture Story Book award, 2 from the Children's Book award.

4. 8 Picture Books:

   Henkes, *Kitten's First Full Moon;*
   any book about the dog Carl by Alexandra Day*;*
   Mayer, *Frog Goes to Dinner;*
   Martin, *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom;*
   Brown, *Goodnight Moon;*
   any picture book by Chris Van Allsburg;
   any picture book by Rosemary Wells;
   any picture book illustrated by Eric Carle.

Module 3, due March 29:

- ***Fantasy/Science Fiction:*** Lowry, *The Giver;* White, *Charlotte's Web;* any Harry Potter book; McKinley, *The Blue Sword;* Cooper, *Over Sea Under Stone;* Pullman, *The Golden Compass*, for a total of 7 books.

- ***Realistic Fiction:*** Cleary, *Ramona Quimby Age 8;* Cormier, *The Chocolate War*;

Laurie Halse Anderson, *Speak;* Cynthia Rylant, *Missing May;* Dicamillo, *Because of Winn-Dixie;* any chapter book by Judy Blume (a chapter book is a book that has chapters. It's different from a picture book, in which illustrations are emphasized and there are fewer words), for a total of 7 books.

o *Historical Fiction:* Hess, *Out of the Dust;* Lowry, *Number the Stars;* Watkins, *So Far From the Bamboo Grove*, for a total of 3 books.

o *Young adult award books:* 2 books by 2 different authors who have won the Margaret A. Edwards Award; 2 titles that are winners or honor books of the Michael L. Printz Award; 2 winners of the Alex Award; 2 winners of Quick Picks for Reluctant YA Readers, for a total of 8 books.

o *Poetry: Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein; 1 book.

Module 4, due April 26:

o *Multicultural books:* Two books by two different authors from the Coretta Scott King Awards; two books by two different authors from the Pura Belpre Awards; two books by two different authors about Asian-American youth; two books by two different authors about Native American youth; one book about Christmas; one book about a December holiday other than Christmas, for a total of 10 books.

o *Translations:* 2 winners of the Mildred L. Batchelder Award, for a total of 2 books.

o *Videos/CDs/Websites:* Ten titles. Include: a Harry Potter movie; a nonfiction CD rom; *ASPCA Animaland* at http://www.animaland.org/; Galileo Kids Page at http://kids.galileo.usg.edu; a title of your choice from the International Children's Digital Library at http://www.icdlbooks.org/; and 5 others of your choice. Titles in this category may duplicate but may not replace titles in other categories.

Finding Materials for the Literature Modules:

Odum Library at VSU: http://books.valdosta.edu/. Click on "Books and More" to search the catalog. If VSU does not own the title, use GIL Express or Interlibrary Loan. If you are taking all your classes online/off-campus and live outside Lowndes County, materials can be mailed to you; consult the Distance Ed page at http://books.valdosta.edu/dist/dstudents.html.

Other libraries near your home: public, school, other universities. You can get walk-in circulation service and access to GIL Express from any USG library.

Bookstores: some of them let you sit and read for free ☺.

If you make a good faith effort and cannot find a required title, let me know via WebCT Vista mail.