

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE
MLIS 7420 Literature for Youth
Syllabus
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 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/pls/child/childmanual.pdf>

Literature Reading List: see below.

Optional Materials

Tomlinson, Carl M. and Carol Lynch-Brown. *Essentials of Children's Literature*.
4th ed. Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 2002.

Nilsen, Alleen Pace and Kenneth L. Donelson. *Literature for Today's Young
Adults*. 6th ed. New York: Longman, 2001.

Required Activities

Literature Modules	60%
Weekly Assignments	10%
Story Time	10%
Book Talk	10%
Final Exam	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.

Assignments

Weekly Assignments: due Wednesdays by 5:00 p.m.

These will be posted on the Discussion Board. Discussion assignments will require qualitative assessments of specific literary genres and title literature and their possible uses with children and young adults.

Four Literature Modules (see below)

Story Time. You will share a complete book or books of 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. Record this information: author, title, publisher and publication date of the items used; visual aids used; accompanying activities, if any; what worked well; what you will change next time. Accompanying activities may include songs, movement activities, or arts activities.

Book Talk. 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: author, title, publisher and publication date of the items used; visual aids used; accompanying activities, if any; what worked well; what you will change next time.

Final Exam: Essay type.

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 requiring classroom accommodations or modifications because of a documented disability should discuss this need with the professor at the beginning of the semester. Students not registered with the Special Services Program should contact Special Services in Nevins Hall, Room 2164, 229-245-2498.

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.

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.

Under Suggested Uses, you might also record "non-uses," students or situations for which the title would be particularly inappropriate.

"Double dipping" is not allowed, which means that the same item can't count for more than one category. The 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.

For award book requirements, titles that received "Honorable Mention" recognition may be used.

These titles are arranged in four modules.

Due dates will be Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m.

See below for titles in each Module.

Module 1: Series books: Read one title from each of Fear Street; Goosebumps; Babysitter Club; Buffy the Vampire Slayer; Roswell.

Module 2:

1. 6 Caldecott Award Books: 2 published 1938-65, 2 published 1966-96, 2 published 1997-2003.
2. 6 Newbery Award Books: 2 published 1955-75, 2 published 1976-96, 2 published 1997-2003.
3. 4 Georgia Children's Book Awards winners: 2 from the Picture Story Book award, 2 from the Children's Book award.
4. Picture Books:
Henkes, *Julius the Baby of the World*;
Mayer, *Frog Goes to Dinner*;
DePaola, *Strega Nona*;
Rylant, *The Relatives Came*;
Hoban, *Push Pull Empty Full*;
Martin, *Chica Chica Boom Boom*;
Polacco, *Pink and Say*;
Brown, *Goodnight Moon*;
Van Allsburg, *Mysteries of Harris Burdick*;
any picture book by Rosemary Wells.

***Module 3:**

- **Fantasy/Science Fiction:** Lowry, *The Giver*; White, *Charlotte's Web*; any Harry Potter book; McKinley, *The Blue Sword*; Cooper, *Over Sea Under Stone*.
- **Realistic Fiction:** Blume, *Then Again, Maybe I Won't*; Cleary, *Ramona Quimby Age 8*; Cormier, *The Chocolate War*; Laurie Halse Anderson, *Speak*; Cynthia Rylant, *Missing May*.
- **Romanticism:** Voigt, *A Solitary Blue*
- **Historical Fiction:** Hess, *Out of the Dust*; Lowry, *Number the Stars*; Watkins, *So Far From the Bamboo Grove*.
- **Informational books:** Robie Harris, *It's So Amazing! A Book About Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families (Candlewick Press, 1999)*; Willhoit, *Daddy's Roommate*; Newman, *Heather Has Two Mommies*.
- **Also read one book of your choice by each of these authors:** Joanna Cole; Jean Fritz, Gail Gibbons, David Macaulay, Seymour Simon.
- **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.

- **Poetry:** *Read any book by:* Shel Silverstein, Jack Prelutsky, Judith Viorst

***Module 4:**

- **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.
- **Translations:** 2 winners of the Mildred L. Batchelder Award
- **Videos/CDs/Websites:** Ten titles. Include: a Harry Potter movie; a winner of the Andrew Carnegie Medal; a nonfiction CD rom; *ASPCA Animaland* at www.animaland.org; Galileo Kids Page at kids.galileo.usg.edu. Titles in this category may duplicate but may not replace titles in other categories.