



VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY
MASTER OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE
MLIS 7421 Multicultural Youth Literature
Syllabus, Spring 2011

Instructor:

Melba Tomeo

Email: mtomeo@valdosta.edu or melbatomeo@gmail.com, course email

Phone: 724-421-5423 (cell), 724-794-5498 (fax)

AIM: melbatomeo

Virtual Office Hours/at your convenience

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to survey a wide variety of multicultural literature for children and young adults. Emphasis will be placed on enhancing librarians' and teachers' abilities to locate, evaluate, select, and incorporate unbiased and age-appropriate multicultural literature in order to provide students with the opportunity to make important connections across and within cultural groups.

Course Objectives:

At the end of this course, students will:

- be familiar with a variety of multicultural literature for children and young adults;
- be familiar with various authors and illustrators of multicultural youth literature;
- be familiar with the historical context and current issues relating to multicultural youth literature;
- understand how to evaluate and select multicultural youth literature for school and library use;
- be familiar with the major awards for multicultural youth literature;
- be familiar with professional literature, including selections aids, concerning multicultural youth literature;
- be familiar with strategies for incorporating multicultural literature into the curriculum and/or collection.

Required Course Materials:

Text:

Norton, Donna E. (2008). *Multicultural children's literature: Through the eyes of many children* (3rd ed.). New York: Prentice Hall. ISBN 10: 0135145287, ISBN 13: 978-0135145289

Additional Readings:

You will be reading a wide variety of multicultural youth titles, including picture books, in this course. It is recommended that you obtain or confirm access to a children's or youth collection through your university library children's collection, local public or school library, or interlibrary loan services in order to meet the reading requirements of this course. Required journal articles will be posted to the BlazeView course site.

Course Requirements and Grading:

This is a web-delivered course, with no required face-to-face meetings and no required synchronous online meeting times. Detailed instructions for all course requirements will be provided on the BlazeView course site.

- **Discussion Boards** (7 postings @ 10 points each, 6 peer responses @ 5 points each, 100 total points, 20% of grade): Question and article responses and peer comments posted weekly to course discussion boards, constituting class participation. Due as assigned.
- **Activity Quick-Writes** (25 points each, 100 total points, 20% of grade): 1-2 page quick-writes summarizing and reflecting on assigned activities. Due as assigned.
- **Reading Log** (5 points each, 175 total points, 40% of grade): Briefly annotated bibliography of multicultural youth titles read, relating to chapter topics. In conjunction with textbook reading, these readings are the most important component of the course. Due at midterm and end of course.
- **Final Project** (100 points, 20% of grade): Selection and evaluation of multicultural literature for a curricular connection, themed collection, and/or student-selected topic. These bibliographies will be shared with the entire class. Due 5/2.

A = excellent work that indicates a thorough understanding and superior application of the material, evidenced in original ways beyond minimum course expectations. 90-100%.

B = satisfactory work indicating a thorough investigation of ideas and concepts central to course material, consistently well prepared. 80-89%.

C = sometimes satisfactory, demonstrating a basic understanding but revealing marginal preparation, resulting in superficial responses and minimum performance. 70-79%.

Course Technology Requirements and Assistance:

Before beginning work on this course, please visit the [BlazeView for Students](#) page to make sure you have the correct versions of browsers, java, and appropriate plug-ins. Instructions are also provided to disable your browser's pop-up blocker (a necessity for using BlazeView).

BlazeView Help: http://www.valdosta.edu/vista/faq/help_students.shtml

Valdosta IT Help desk: 229-245-4537, helpdesk@valdosta.edu. If you experience difficulty reading documents or viewing images posted to the course site, please contact me for assistance or clarification.

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 behaviors are contained in the [Student Handbook, Student Code of Ethics](#).

By taking this course, you agree that all required course work may be subject to submission for

textual similarity review to SafeAssign, a tool within BlazeVIEW. For more information on the use of SafeAssign at VSU see **SafeAssign for Students** (<http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/SafeAssignforStudents.shtml>).

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).

Course Schedule:

Date	Topic
1/10 – 1/16	Getting Started
1/17	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
1/10 – 1/23	Learning Unit I: Beginnings Introduction to Multicultural Literature; Definitions; Purpose of Study, History and Context
1/24 – 2/13	Learning Unit II: Crossing Borders Latino American and Asian American Youth Literature; Teaching Other Cultures
2/14 – 2/20	Learning Unit III: Informed Choices Evaluating and Selecting; Criteria and Standards; Review Sources and Multicultural Publishers
2/21 – 3/11	Learning Unit IV: Social Justice African American and Native American Youth Literature; Transformative Teaching
3/14 – 3/18	Spring Recess
3/21 – 3/27	Learning Unit V: Issues and Awards Authenticity, Troublesome Classics, Translations, Illustrations, Multicultural Literature Awards
3/28 – 4/17	Learning Unit VI: In Time of Trouble Jewish American, Muslim American and Middle Eastern American Youth Literature; Teaching Difficult Topics
4/18 – 5/1	Learning Unit VII: Differences and Diversity LGBT, Mixed Heritage, Disabilities in Youth Literature; Teaching for Tolerance and Understanding
5/2 – 5/6	Final Project: Selected Bibliography

All assignments are described more fully and additional guidance provided on the BlazeView course site and on the course calendar. Students will be notified in advance of any necessary revisions to the course schedule.