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ENG 3405-001 Childrens Literature

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ENG 3405

Children's Literature

Instructor: Dr. Niall Coleman Nance-Carroll

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Office: Coleman Hall 3060

Office Hours:

Tuesday 12:15-2:00 (in-person)

Thursday 12:15-2:00 (in-person)

Friday 10:00-11:30 (online)

Course Objectives:

1. Experience a wide range of literature produced for, or handed down to, children.
2. Understand some of the social, cultural and technological forces that shape the production of children's books.
3. Become familiar with the characteristics of key genres and formats enjoyed by children: realistic and fantasy fiction, fairy and folk tales, poetry and picture books
4. Develop evaluative skills for assessing the quality of children's books.

Catalog Course Description:

A study of the rich variety of texts written for or primarily read by children, including picture books, poetry, fairy tales, chapter books, and novels. Emphases include historical, cultural, pedagogical, critical and theoretical perspectives.

Required Textbooks

- *The World of Pooh* A. A. Milne and E. H. Shepard
- *The Composition* Antonio Skármeta and Alfonso Ruano
- *Bud, Not Buddy* Christopher Paul Curtis
- *The Snowy Day* Ezra Jack Keats
- *Where the Wild Things Are* Maurice Sendak
- *Coraline* Neil Gaiman
- *El Deafo* Cece Bell
- *Charlotte's Web* E.B. White
- *Miles Morales: Spider-Man* Jason Reynolds
- *DC Super Hero Girls: Finals Crisis* Shea Fontana and Yancey Labat
- *Lowriders: Blast from the Past* Cathy Camper and Raúl the Third

Assignments

100	Reading Quizzes/Summaries
400	Discussions and In-Class Work
100	Short Paper 1: Awards and Analysis (self-selected book)*
100	Short Paper 2: Fairy Tales (self-selected book)*
200	Research Project
100	Final Exam
1000	Total

*You may not choose texts assigned in this course for your self-selected books on short papers 1 and 3. You may use assigned texts for paper 2, but you are not required to do so.

Attendance Policy

This course is heavily discussion based and your participation and leadership of those discussions is an important component of your course grade and the learning that will take place this semester. However, health and safety are essential, so do not come to class if you are sick. Please arrange to get notes from a classmate and we can discuss making up missing assignments.

Assignment Descriptions

Reading Quizzes / Summaries: there will be a quiz on every day that we have a reading assignment. These are brief (typically 5 short answer questions) and will take place at the start of class. Routinely, I will accept a brief summary of the reading in your words. The summary option is available for all students and is often useful if you missed class, arrived late, or for any other reason.

Short Papers

You will receive specific prompts for each paper. These will ask you to draw on what you learned in class and to consult secondary sources to support your evaluation or your argument about a text.

Research Project

You will develop a theoretically grounded analysis of a children's text or multiple texts and you will present it to the class and answer questions. This must draw on multiple scholarly sources and display an understanding of the norms of academic argument. The Q&A session is part of your grade, so be prepared to answer detailed questions (and to ask them of your classmates).

Final Exam

The final exam will ask you to display your knowledge of the field of children's literature. The questions will focus on understanding the history and present state of the field, on applying the standards of evaluation and analysis that we discussed in the course, and in presenting and defending claims about children's literature.

In-Class Work

We will complete a variety of in-class assignments, such as writing, graded discussions, and debates. Some of these will involve group work and some will be completed individually.

Academic Integrity

Students are expected to maintain principles of academic integrity and conduct as defined in EIU's Code of Conduct (<http://www.eiu.edu/judicial/studentconductcode.php>). Violations will be reported to the Office of Student Standards.

Students with Disabilities

If you are a student with a documented disability in need of accommodations to fully participate in this class, please contact the Office of Student Disability Services (OSDS). All accommodations must be approved through OSDS. Please stop by McAfee Gym, Room 1210, or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

The Student Success Center

Students who are having difficulty achieving their academic goals are encouraged to contact the Student Success Center (www.eiu.edu/~success) for assistance with time management, test taking, note taking, avoiding procrastination, setting goals, and other skills to support academic achievement. The Student Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696, or go to McAfee Gym, Room 1301.

Statement for Teacher Certification

Students seeking Teacher Certification in English Language Arts should request each of their English Department professors to complete the "Application for English Department Approval to Student Teach" before the end of the semester. These forms are available in a rack outside the office of Dr. Melissa Ames (CH 3821) and online

here: <https://www.eiu.edu/english/machform/view.php?id=19831>.

Student Well-Being

EIU is committed to supporting and advancing the mental health and well-being of our students. Students may experience stressors that can impact both their academic experience and their personal mental health and well-being. These may include academic pressure and challenges associated with relationships, anxiety, depression, alcohol or other drugs, identities, and finances.

If you are experiencing concerns, seeking help is a courageous thing to do for yourself and those who care about you. Below is a list of available campus resources to assist with student well-being:

- [EIU Counseling Clinic](#): Human Services Building, 1st floor; 217-581-3413; for after-hours urgent support, call 1-866-567-2400. The Counseling Clinic offers individual and group counseling, emergency services, and resources.
- [Online Mental Health Screening](#): online, private screening tool for depression, anxiety, eating disorders, and alcohol and substance misuse.
- [EIU Health Clinic](#): Human Services Building, 1st floor; 217-581-3013. The Health Clinic services include lab work, pharmacy, and women's health and men's health programs.
- [Health Education Resource Center \(HERC\)](#): 2201 Blair Hall; 217-581-7786. The HERC offers health programming in the areas of alcohol, tobacco and other drug prevention and education, flu and cold prevention and education, nutritional analysis and education, and sexual health education, in addition to other health-related topics.
- [Center for Gender and Sexual Diversity \(GSD\)](#): Stevenson Hall, lower level; 217-581-7117. The GSD Center provides services such as the Trans*formation Station, a large library full of books and movies, year-round programming, and a comprehensive Safe Zone Training program.
- [EIU Campus Food Pantry](#): 1347 McAfee. The EIU Campus Food Pantry is a means to support students and the campus community by alleviating barriers to consistent, adequate, and healthful food. Anyone with a Panther Card can visit the pantry two times per month.
- [Student Legal Service](#): MLK Jr University Union Room 2420; 217-581-6054. Student Legal Service can assist with off-campus housing issues, traffic violations, misdemeanor criminal offenses, municipal ordinance violations, and expungement.
- [Financial Aid and Scholarships](#): Student Services Building East Wing; 217-581-6405, Fax: 217-581-6422, finaid@eiu.edu. The Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships provides information and guidance to secure the necessary financial resources to meet educational goals and financial obligations to the university.

Course Schedule

Week 1 August 22 & 24

- Tuesday: Welcome to Children's Lit!
- Thursday: Children's Literature Critical Intro
 - Read Karla Möller's "Creating Diverse Classroom Literature Collections Using Rudine Simms Bishop's Conceptual Metaphors and Analytical Frameworks as Guides" [Click here for Möller's article](#)
 - Read Philip Nel's "The Fall and Rise of Children's Literature" [Click here for Nel's article](#)

Week 2 August 29 & 31

- Tuesday: *The Snowy Day*
 - Read Ezra Jack Keats's *The Snowy Day*
 - Read Nina Mikkelsen's "Remembering Ezra Jack Keats and "The Snowy Day": What Makes a Children's Book Good?" [Click here for Mikkelsen's Article](#)
- Thursday: *Where the Wild Things Are*
 - Read Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*
 - Read Philip Nel's "Wild Things, I Think I Love You: Maurice Sendak, Ruth Krauss, and Childhood" [Click here for Nel's article](#)

Week 3 September 5 & 7

- Tuesday: Library Visit (meet in the Ballenger Teachers Center)
- Thursday: *Winnie-the-Pooh*
 - Read *Winnie-the-Pooh* (NOTE: You do not need to read *The House at Pooh Corner* yet, both books are contained in *The World of Pooh*)
 - Read Maria Nikolajeva's "The Identification Fallacy: Perspective and Subjectivity in Children's Literature" [Click here for Nikolajeva's article](#)

Week 4 September 12 & 14

- Tuesday: *Charlotte's Web*
 - Read: E. B. White's *Charlotte's Web*
- Thursday: *Charlotte's Web*
 - Read selected critical article

Week 5 September 19 & 21

- Tuesday: *The Composition*
 - Read Antonio Skármeta's *The Composition*
 - Read Niall Nance-Carroll's "Innocence is No Defense" [Click here for Nance-Carroll's article](#)
- Thursday:

- Award Paper Due

Week 6 September 26 & 28

- Tuesday: *Bud, Not Buddy*
 - Read Christopher Paul Curtis's *Bud, Not Buddy*
- Thursday: *Bud, Not Buddy*
 - Read critical article

Week 7 October 3 & 5

- Tuesday: Library Visit (Meet in e-classroom on top floor)
- Thursday: Fairy Tales Lecture, bring selected books from library visit

Week 8 October 10 & 12

- Tuesday: *Lowriders: Blast From the Past*
 - Read Cathy Camper's *Lowriders: Blast From the Past*
- Thursday: *Lowriders: Blast from the Past*
 - Fairy Tale Paper Due
 - Read Cathy Camper's blog post on Latinxs in Kid Lit [Click here for Camper's post](#)
 - Listen to (or read, there is a transcript linked as well) Raúl the Third's interview [Click here for Raúl's interview](#)

Week 9 October 17 & 19

- Tuesday *DC Superhero Girls*
 - Read Shea Fontaine's *DC Superhero Girls*
- Thursday *DC Superhero Girls*
 - Read Edward Avery-Natale's "An Analysis of Embodiment among Six Superheroes in DC Comics" [Click here for Avery-Natale's article](#)

Week 10 October 24 & 26

- Tuesday: *El Deafo*
 - Read Cece Bell's *El Deafo*
- Thursday: *El Deafo*
 - Read Sara Kersten-Parrish's "Students' Conceptions of Deafness While Reading *El Deafo*" [Click here for Kersten-Parrish's article](#)

Week 11 October 30 & 31

- Tuesday: *Coraline*
 - Read Neil Gaiman's *Coraline*

- Thursday: *Coraline*
 - Read Darren Harris-Fain's "Putting the Graphic in Graphic Novel" [Click here for Harris-Fain's article](#)

Week 12 November 7 & 9

- Tuesday: *Miles Morales: Spider-Man*
 - Read Jason Reynolds's *Miles Morales: Spider-Man*
- Thursday: *Miles Morales: Spider-Man*
 - Read Mario Worlds and Cody Miller's "*Miles Morales: Spider-Man* and Reimagining the Canon for Racial Justice" [Click here for Worlds and Miller's article](#)
 - Fairy Tale Paper Due

Week 13 November 14 & 16

- Tuesday: Research Project Presentations
- Thursday: Research Project Presentations

Week 14 No Classes

Week 15 November 28 & 30

- Tuesday: *The House at Pooh Corner*
 - Read A.A. Milne's *The House at Pooh Corner*
- Thursday: *The House at Pooh Corner*
 - Read Niall Nance-Carroll's "Not Only, But Also: Entwined Modes and the Fantastic in A.A. Milne's Pooh Stories" [Click here for Nance-Carroll's article](#)

Week 16 December 5 & 7

- Tuesday:
 - Last Week Lecture and Discussion
- Thursday:
 - Last Week Lecture and Discussion

Finals Week (NOTE: Classes do not meet at normal time)

- Tuesday December 12
 - Final Exam 2:45-4:45: Final Essay Exams Due and Final Discussion