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ENG 3405-001: Children's Literature

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English 3405 Children's Literature (Hybrid) 3 credit hours

Spring 2021

Dr. Charlotte England

Contact Me: cpengland@eiu.edu or 217-345-4836.

If you need me quickly, please phone! (the old fashioned way, it is a landline so do not text).

What Hybrid Means for English 3405 this Semester:

Class Meetings: Class will meet in person (F2F) in the lecture hall on the lower level of Coleman Hall through the end of February. For much of March and one day in April we will meet *online only* so we can use online texts and conduct workshops less awkwardly than under the necessities of social distancing: **Week 8 (Mar 2&4), Week 9 (Mar 9 & 11), Week 10 (Mar 16) Week 12 (Mar 30) and Week 13 (April 6)**. Instructions about how to prepare and participate are in the **Schedule of Readings and Assignments** below. Online classes are not optional and in some cases they will be laborious to make up – please plan to attend them.

If you are unwell or need to quarantine during the time that the class meets in person, you can follow audio versions of the lectures / discussions which I will post each week.

Office Hours: I will not keep regular on campus office hours to minimize our mutual exposure, but I am happy to make an appointment to meet with you in person or by Zoom at a mutually convenient time. You can **call me any time before 10:00 pm at 217-345-4836** to discuss questions, concerns or catch up with something you may have missed. Please note that the number is a landline so it cannot receive texts. And yes, I am one of the last people on the planet not to have a cell phone – but look at it this way – here's an opportunity to engage in an authentic 20th century communication experience without having to visit a theme park!

Assignments: All assignments will be posted online and all of them will be handed in there. Occasionally I will ask that you do an assignment/quiz in D2L and these are marked in the **Schedule of Readings and Assignments**.

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.

Course Texts:

Stories & Verse: In Print: Jack Zipes et al. *The Norton Anthology of Children's Literature*.

Chapter Books: In Print: Kate di Camillo *The Tale of Despereaux* &

Christopher Paul Curtis *The Watsons Go to Birmingham, 1963*.

Picture Books: In Print: Matt de la Pena *Last Stop on Market Street* / Barbara Lehman *The Red Book* / Maurice Sendak *Where the Wild Things Are* / Dr. Seuss *And to Think that I Saw it on Mulberry Street* and *The Lorax* (both in *Six by Seuss*).
 Online in D2L: Matthew Cordell *A Wolf in the Snow* / Ian Falconer *Oliva* / Gene Zion *Harry the Dirty Dog* / Lemony Snickett *The Dark* / Jane Yolen *Owl Moon* / Ezra Jack Keats *The Snowy Day* / Luli Gray *Ant & Grasshopper* / Jerry Pinkney *The Grasshopper and the Ants*.

Other: Chapter 5 of Kathleen Horning *From Cover to Cover* (2 PDF's on D2L)
 In Print: Jacqueline Woodson *Brown Girl Dreaming*.

Schedule of Readings and Assignment Due Dates

Week One: January 12 & 14

Theme: Forms, Formats and the Dual Audience of Children's Literature

Tuesday: Intro to genres and formats. One text, 2 audiences and evaluating kids' books.

Thursday: Reinventing Aesop

Read for Class: All texts on D2L in Week One folder: Before class please read and print a copy of: Aesop's "Grasshopper and the Ants" to bring to lecture with you. Watch the video texts of Luli Gray's *Ant and Grasshopper* and Jerry Pinkney's *Grasshopper and the Ants*. Come prepared to discuss your observations about the way the stories have been presented.

Due This Week: Online: **Scavenger Hunt** – Please do this **before next Tuesday**.

I would also appreciate it if you filled out the **Getting to Know you Survey** that you will find there.

Journal 1 Criteria for Choosing Children's Books (hand in to D2L Criteria drop box) **before Friday 6 pm**.

Week Two: January 19 and 21

Theme: Versions of a Classic Tale – Five Little Red Riding Hoods.

Tuesday: Origins and Early Revisions

Read & Bring: in Zipes: Perrault "Little Red Riding Hood" pp. 343-4, Grimm "Little Red Cap" pp. 345-7, Storr "Little Polly Riding Hood" pp. 356-8.

Thursday: Fractured Narratives

Read & Bring: online in D2L (please print a copy to bring to class) Patricia McKissak "Flossie and the Fox", and in Zipes: Dahl "Little Red Riding Hood and the Wolf" pp. 359-60, & Block "Wolf" pp. 381-6. **NB** "Wolf" is disturbing - read accordingly.

Due This Week: Reading **QUIZ** in class on **Tuesday**.

NB: Monday January 25 is the deadline to drop or change class to credit/no credit status.

Week Three: January 26 & 28

Theme: Fairy Tales Ancient and Modern: Conventions, Audiences and Themes

Tuesday: Classic Tales and Social Satire

Read & Bring: in Zipes: Perrault “The Master Cat or Puss in Boots” pp. 186-9 & Anderson “The Nightingale”. Online: Dickens “The Magic Fishbone”

Thursday: Modern Revisions of Fairy Tale Themes

Read & Bring: in Zipes: Yolen “The Lady and the Mermaid” pp. 325-7 and Munsch “The Paper Bag Princess” pp. 328-9.

Due This Week: Online Fairy Tale Quiz on the Week’s Readings – go to “quizzes” on D2L.
Complete by **Friday at 6pm**.

Week Four: Thursday February 4 only

Theme: Introduction to Children’s Verse

Tuesday: NO CLASS – Personal Wellness Day – Schedule Some Fun!

Thursday: Devices of Sound Lecture and Exercises

Read & Bring: in Zipes Mahy “17 Kings and 42 Elephants” pp. 1161-2,
Causley “The Money Came in, Came in” pp. 1265-6, Mora ‘Colors Crackle, Colors Roar’
p. 1271

Due This Week: NOTHING!

Week Five: February 9 & 11

Theme: Sense and (Non) Sense

Tuesday: Imagery in Children’s Verse

Read & Bring: in Zipes: de la Mare “Not I” p.1204, Graves ‘Love without Hope’ p. 1233,
Causley “I Went to Santa Barbara” p.1254, Mrs. McPhee p.1255 and “I am the Song” p.1266,
Mora “Words as Free as Confetti” p.1273.

Thursday: Nonsense Verse

Read & Bring: in Zipes: Lear ‘The Jumblies’ pp.1156-7, Carroll ‘Jabberwocky’ pp. 1158-9 and in *Six by Seuss - The Lorax*.

Due This Week: Poetry Sampler assignment on D2L **by Friday at 6 pm**. Upload it to Poetry Sampler Drop Box.

Week Six: February 16 & 18

Theme: Understanding Picture Books – Physical Forms and Design Considerations

Tuesday: Text and Pacing

Prepare: Please download, print and read carefully the first of two PDF’s from Horning’s *From Cover to Cover: Evaluating and Reviewing Children’s Books: “Text”*. Watch the video of *Goodnight Moon* (D2L) after you’ve read Horning. We’ll be doing an in class exercise based on principles you glean from Horning.

Thursday: Visual Features; Medium, Style and Message

Prepare: Please download, print and read carefully the second PDF from Horning’s *Cover to Cover: “Pictures”*. Bring it to class with you along with some crayons or colored pencils / markers for an in class exercise.

Due This Week: Online Quiz on basic Picture Book Terminology from Horning. Take it in D2L before **6 pm Friday**.

Week Seven: February 23 & 25

Theme: Exploring How Images and Text Work Together

Tuesday: Page Turns, Margins, Panels and Insets in Action

Read & Bring: online please watch the video of Matthew Cordell’s *A Wolf in the Snow* on D2L. In your Dr. Seuss anthology please read *And to Think that I Saw it on Mulberry Street*. Bring it, together with Sendak’s *Where the Wild Things Are* and Lehman’s *The Red Book* to class.

Thursday: Interplay Between Word and Image

Read & Bring: de la Pena *Last Stop on Market Street*, and Klaussen *This is Not My Hat*.

Due This Week: Nothing – make some study notes for the midterm

Week Eight: March 2 & 4 ONLINE CLASS & MIDTERM EXAM This Week

Tuesday: No Class Meeting – The **midterm** will be **available all day** from **9 am until 10 pm**. Reserve 70 minutes and take it at your convenience. You may use your notes, but not your fellow classmates (i.e. take the test independently – questions will be randomized).

Thursday: Introducing the Picture Book Project – Class is via Collaborate Ultra (enter in D2L). Please download and review the project description which will be posted in this week’s D2L folder. Your familiarity with the assignment will make the class experience productive.

Due this Week: Exam on **Tuesday**

Week Nine: March 9 & 11 ONLINE CLASS this week

Theme: Representing the Experience of Very Young Children in Picture Books

Tuesday: Class is on **Zoom** today. Please familiarize yourself with the video texts in D2L ahead of time: Zion’s *Harry the Dirty Dog*, Falconer’s *Olivia* and Cannon’s *Stellaluna*.

Thursday: Class is on **Zoom** today. Please familiarize yourself with the video texts ahead of time: Yolen *Owl Moon*, Keats *The Snowy Day*, Snickett *The Dark*.

Due This Week: Picture Book Proposal **by 6 pm Friday**.
Start working on your draft text for next week.

Week Ten: Tuesday March 16 only ONLINE CLASS this week

Tuesday: Narrative Voice and an unusual Hero
Prepare: Read *The Tale of Despereaux* books I & II

Thursday: No Class – Personal Wellness Day – Schedule Some Fun

Due This Week: Hand in **Rough Draft** of your Picture Book text **by Friday 6pm** to the Picture Book Text drop box on D2L.

Week Eleven: March 23 & 25

Theme: The Novel - Patterns in Plot and Characterization

Tuesday: Miggery Sow, Roscuro and the Nature of Villainy
Read & Bring: Read books III & IV of *The Tale of Despereaux*

Thursday: Soup, Stories and the “stakes” of good imaginative fiction.
Read & Bring: books III & IV of *The Tale of Despereaux*

Due This Week: In class Quiz on Despereaux Tuesday.

NB: Friday April 2 is the deadline to Withdraw from a class with a “w” on your transcript.

Week Twelve: March 30 and April 1 Project Workshops ONLINE and IN PERSON this week

Tuesday: Class Meets online in Collaborate for a workshop devoted to your picture book texts.

Before class begins, please email a copy of your picture book text, separated out page by page with page breaks and page turns clearly marked, to your group members. Print the texts you receive or download and arrange the files for easy reference so you can do the exercises in the Text Workshop Handout on D2L during the time you are all online together. If you miss class it is your responsibility to evaluate the texts of your peers ASAP and return the results to them. It will be easier and faster to come and participate!

Thursday: Working with Storyboards and Pacing your Text - Class meets in person

Prepare: View the videos in this week’s D2L folder on storyboards and mock up books.

Print / write out the text for your picture book with the text for each page as a separate unit. Cut out and number those units of text. We will be doing individual storyboard exercises using your project texts which you will finish for homework in time for Thursday’s class

Due This Week: Please submit a copy of the evaluations you made of your colleagues’ texts to the Workshop I Evaluations drop box on D2L.

Week Thirteen: April 6 & 8 ONLINE and IN PERSON Classes this week

Tuesday: Storyboard Workshops – online – meet in Collaborate via D2L.

Have your Storyboard ready to share (photographs or scanned) in an easily visible form, with group mates. Download the Workshop instructions (printing will make them easier to use) ahead of time so you can finish the work during the class hour. If you miss class it is your responsibility to evaluate the texts of your peers ASAP and return the results to them.

Thursday: Portraying the Child’s Experience in the Realistic Novel – The Child Narrator

Read & Bring: Chapters 1 through 7 inclusive of *The Watsons Go to Birmingham, 1963*.

Due This Week: Submit 2 pieces of work from the Tuesday Workshops

1. a copy of your **original storyboard** (as presented) plus some point form notes about what you will work on as a result of workshop feedback.
2. A copy of your **evaluations of the other storyboards** you looked at during the Workshop session.

Submit both Storyboard and Evaluations to the Workshop II Evaluations drop box **before Friday at 6 pm.**

Week Fourteen: April 13 & 15

Theme: Dealing with Hard Truths and traumatic Events in books for young readers

Tuesday: Near Death Experiences

Read & Bring: Chapters 8 through the end of *The Watsons Go To Birmingham, 1963*.

Thursday: The School Yard and the Nation

Read & Bring: Chapters 8 through the end of *The Watsons Go to Birmingham, 1963*.

Due This Week: In class Quiz on Thursday.

Work on Storyboard and illustrations for final project.

Week Fifteen: Tuesday April 20 Only

Theme: Creative Non-Fiction for young readers

Tuesday: Narrative Verse and Historical Experience in a Personal Narrative

Read & Bring: Selections from *Brown Girl Dreaming*: “February 12, 1963” pp. 1-2, “second daughter’s second day on earth” pp. 3-5, “night bus” 35, “leaving Columbus” pp. 40-41, “the beginning” pp. 62-3, “as a child I smelled the air” p. 95, “the last fireflies” p. 107, “changes” pp. 108-9, “caroline but we called her aunt kay, some memories” pp. 149-50

Thursday: No Class -Personal Wellness Day - Time for a Breather

Due This Week: Keep Working on your Final Projects – finalize your storyboard for next **Tuesday**.

Week Sixteen: April 27 & 29

Tuesday: The Writing Child

Read & Bring: Selections from *Brown Girl Dreaming*: “composition notebook” pp.154-5, “on paper” p. 156, “first grade” 158-9, “gifted” p.169, “believing” pp.175-6, “reading” p. 226 “stevie and me” pp. 227-8 “when I tell my family” p. 229. “the butterfly poems” p. 249, “first book” p. 252, “the stories I tell” pp. 290-91 “bushwick history lesson” pp. 297-8, “a writer” pp. 311-12 “each world” pp. 319-20.

Thursday: Final Exam Review

Due This Week: Copies of your final Storyboard should be submitted by **Tuesday at 10 pm**.

Upload the files (titled clearly with the name of your book) to the Story Board Drop Box

Final Picture Book Projects (including a copy of the Storyboard you submitted to the Locker on Tuesday) are due by **Friday at 10 pm**. Please see the assignment instructions for format requirements and after you've compiled the final document, contribute it to the Final Picture Book Drop Box on D2L. If classes are still meeting in person - you may wish to hand in a paper copy of your picture book instead. Please drop it off at my office (Coleman 3775) before the building closes on Friday Afternoon (I think 5 pm?). Now all you need to do is make sure your notes are in shape for the final exam next week!

Online Final Exam: Thursday May 6 – all day from 9 am to 10 pm. Set aside a time and a quiet place and log in to take it from the “quizzes” folder in D2L. You may use Your notes, but not your classmates. Questions will be randomized.

Assignments and Grade Calculation

45% of the grade for this class will be determined by Quizzes and Exams.

Quizzes – 5 at 3% each = 15%

Midterm Exam – 15%

Final Exam – 15%

Please note that if you miss a quiz or an exam, it cannot be made up unless you have a medical excuse note.

15% will be determined by your participation in the Picture Book Project

Rough Draft of Picture Book Text 5%

Workshop I (text) Evaluations 5%

Original Storyboard and Workshop II Evaluations 5%

25% will be calculated from the final version of your Picture Book Project

7.5% comes from 2 short assignments early in the semester

(Criteria for Choosing, Poetry Sampler)

7.5% comes from Class Participation

NB: Class participation includes more than just a good attendance record. It requires active participation in workshops, the timely submission of work (including the 2 assignments for which there is otherwise no official grade – the Scavenger Hunt and the Picture Book Proposal) and regular contributions to class discussions in person and online.

I will provide an estimate of your participation grade at midterm so you can see where you are headed and reassess it (up or down) before assigning a final grade at the end of the semester.

Late Work and Extensions

A late assignment loses one half letter grade in the first 24 hours after the due date (e.g. B to B-), and one full letter grade after 24 hours (e.g. B to C). Extensions will be freely granted 24 hours before a due date. You must ask via campus email or by telephone. e.g. If the assignment is due on Friday at 6 pm – email / call me before 6 pm Thursday.

General Policies and Statements

- I. Public Health Requirements
- II. Attendance
- III. Academic Integrity
- IV. Students with Disabilities
- V. Student Success Center
- VI. Teacher Certification for English Literature

I. Public Health Requirements

i. Masks – No mask? No class!

Wear one to and from class, in class and on campus all the time, no exceptions.

Not having a mask or forgetting your mask are not acceptable excuses for not wearing them while in class. If you need a medical exemption please obtain it and the requisite alternative PPE **before** you come to class. Why? If there is an outbreak contact tracers will need to know if everyone in the class was masked. If we were not, even briefly, we will all have to quarantine. Don't be the person that makes that happen.

ii. Social Distancing – 6ft at all times

Please maintain 6 feet of distance at all times, masked or not. Follow movement arrows and keep your distance coming to and from class. Yes, it is strange, boring and horrid – it is, however, necessary and helps keep your colleagues safer and more comfortable.

II. Attendance: Come to class on your scheduled days, **unless you are ill. Bring the books and materials that are specified in the Schedule (we can't share!)**

Err on the side of caution. If you have **any stomach upset, respiratory symptoms etc. stay put and contact me**. We will make a plan to help you catch up. In the event that you are quarantined, please provide documentation (electronically) and we'll figure out how to keep you on track.

III. 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. Don't risk plagiarism: if in doubt – cite. I am always happy to talk to you about how to represent any sources properly, but once you have turned in an assignment for credit, it is too late to have that discussion without penalty.

IV. 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 Ninth Street Hall Room 2006 or call 217-581-6583 to make an appointment.

V. 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 student

achievement. The Success Center provides individualized consultations. To make an appointment, call 217-581-6696 or go to 9th Street Hall, Room 1302.

VI. Education Majors Seeking Teacher Certification for English Literature

Get your “yellow sheets” to me well before the semester ends.

Students seeking Teacher Certification in English Language Arts should provide each of their English Department professors with a copy of the yellow "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).