

Eastern Illinois University

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Fall 2021

2021

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### ENG 3405-001: Children's Literature

Niall Nance-Carroll

*Eastern Illinois University*

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Course Meeting Information

2:00-3:15

Tuesday/Thursday

Coleman 3150

Instructor Information

Dr. Niall Nance-Carroll

Email: [ncnancecarroll@eiu.edu](mailto:ncnancecarroll@eiu.edu)

Office: Coleman Hall 3060

**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**

(Note: some textbooks may not be available at textbook rental yet, but they will be coming soon)

- *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
- *Frog and Toad are Friends* Arnold Lobell
- *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
- *Coraline* Neil Gaiman

## **Assignments**

100	Reading Quizzes/Summaries
100	Short Paper 1: Awards (self-selected book)*
100	Short Paper 2: Analysis
100	Short Paper 3: Evaluation/Review (self-selected book)*
100	Midterm Project
200	Final Paper
100	Final Exam
200	In-Class Work
1000	Total

\*you may not choose texts that we use during class time for your self-selected books on short papers 1 and 3

## **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.

## **Midterm Project**

This project requires you to deliver a sustained argument in the style of a short conference paper. It may expand from one of your short papers or it may be a wholly new project. This is also an opportunity for collaborative work. If multiple students would like to present on a similar topic, I am open to group projects.

## **Final Paper**

You will develop a sustained argument about a children's text or texts. This should be a theoretically grounded argument that draws on multiple scholarly sources and displays an understanding of the norms of academic argument. While you may draw on your short papers or your midterm project, it must also include substantial additional research.

### **Final Exam**

This short answer and essay 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](http://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>.

**Tentative Schedule (Note that the order of some texts may change depending on when they become available through textbook rental)**

**Week 1:** Introduction & History of Children's Literature up to 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**Week 2:** 1<sup>st</sup> Library Visit & Introduction to Children's Literature Analysis

**Week 3:** Introduction to 20<sup>th</sup> Century Children's Literature

*Where the Wild Things Are* and *The Snowy Day*

**Week 4:** *Winnie the Pooh*

**Short Paper #1 Due**

**Week 5:** *Frog and Toad are Friends* and *The Composition*

**Week 6:** *Bud, Not Buddy* Christopher Paul Curtis

**Short Paper #2 Due**

**Week 7** *El Deafo* Cece Bell

**Week 8 Midterm Projects**

**Week 9** *Charlotte's Web*

**Week 10** *Miles Morales: Spider-Man*

**Short Paper #3 Due**

**Week 11** *DC Super Hero Girls: Finals Crisis*

**Week 12** *Coraline* Neil Gaiman

**Week 13** *Lowriders: Blast from the Past* Cathy Camper and Raúl the Third

**Final Paper Due**

**Week 14: Thanksgiving Break (No Classes)**

**Week 15:** *The House at Pooh Corner*