English 3405 (001 + 003): Children's Literature
MWF 10:00 – 10:50 in CH 3609 or MWF 12:00 – 12:50 in CH 3150

TEXTBOOK  Essentials of Children's Literature, Lynch-Brown & Tomlinson (hereafter ECL)
ANTHOLOGY  Folk and Fairy Tales, ed. Hallett (hereafter FFT)
TRADE BOOKS

Picture Books
Nappy Hair, Herron (illus. Cepeda)
Amazing Grace, Hoffman (illus. Binch)
Sam's Cookie, Lindgren (illus. Eriksson)
The True Story of the Three Little Pigs, Scieszka (illus. Smith)
Where the Wild Things Are, Sendak
Tuesday, Wiesner

Novels (+ “Chapter Books”)
The Watsons Go to Birmingham, Curtis
Frog and Toad Together, Lobel
Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone, Rowling (illus. Grandpré)
Charlotte's Web, White (illus. Williams)
From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun, Woodson

Schedule of Readings and Assignments (tentative)

Week 1 ~ August 23, 25, 27
M  Introductions
W  Begin Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
F  Continue Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
Note: Always bring books to class discussions of assigned readings

Week 2 ~ August 30; September 1, 3
M  Finish Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone
W  “Learning about Children and their Literature” (ECL chapter 1: pages 1-22)
F  “Poetry” (ECL ch. 3: pp. 40-59)

Week 3 ~ September (6), 8, 10
M  Labor Day (NO Class Meeting)
W  Meet in the Ballenger Teacher Center at Booth Library. Be prepared to choose a book of poetry for children. You will evaluate one poem from this book for the next assignment.
*Look at the list of recommended poets and books in our textbook (ECL 58-66)
F  Bring your poetry book to class plus a typed or xeroxed copy of the poem you selected
Identify the type of poetry book and type of poem using the classifications in our textbook
Week 4 ~ September 13, 15, 17
M  Annotated Poem DUE (Draft) + xerox-ready version of the poem & its illustration
W  Evaluation of Poem DUE (Draft)
F  Nursery Rhymes (handout)

Week 5 ~ September 20, 22, 24
M  Annotated Poem + Evaluation DUE (Revised Versions)
W  "Introduction" (FFT 12-20) + “Traditional Literature” (ECL 5: 93-102)
F  "Little Red Cap" (FFT 27-30) + “Cinderella, or The Little Glass Slipper” (FFT 53)

Week 6 ~ September 27, 29, October 1~ Banned Books Week (get more info at www.ala.org)
M  “Little Red Riding Hood” (FFT 25-27) + “Ashputtel” (FFT 59)
W  “Story of Grandmother” (FFT 23) + “The Chinese Red Riding Hoods” (FFT 31)—and then
the introduction to this section, “Loss of Innocence” (FFT 21-23)
F  “Jack and the Beanstalk” (FFT 106) + “The Story of the Three Little Pigs” (handout)

Week 7 ~ October 4, 6, (8)
M  “Illustration” (FFT 244-245 especially) + The True Story of the Three Little Pigs
W  “Picture Books” (ECL 4:67-78) & “Learning About Books” (ECL 2: only pages 32-37);
Read (and bring to class) all picture books: Sam’s Cookie, Where the Wild Things Are,
Tuesday, Amazing Grace, Nappy Hair and The True Story of the Three Little Pigs
F  Fall Break (NO Class Meeting)

Week 8 ~ October 11, 13, 15
M  Re-view all picture books plus Frog & Toad Together. Make a list in which you rank
these books in terms of audience, from youngest to oldest. Write up an explanation for
your rankings, pointing to specific features that make each book more appropriate for
younger or older readers. Bring all picture books to class.
W  Re-view Where the Wild Things Are + Tuesday (both won the Caldecott Medal)
F  "Multicultural and International Literature" (ECL 10: 187-208) + Sam’s Cookie, Amazing
Grace, and Nappy Hair

Week 9 ~ October 18, 20, 22
M  Bring self-selected picture book(s) to class + Amazing Grace and Nappy Hair
(We will continue discussion of Multicultural Literature)
W  Responses to Self-Selected Picture Book DUE (Draft)
Individual conference appointments available this week + next week
F  Frog & Toad Together + Outline/Plan or Draft Review Essay DUE

Week 10 ~ October 25, 27, 29
M  “Modern Fantasy” (ECL 6: 111-122)
W  Begin Charlotte’s Web, White (1-41)
F  Continue Charlotte’s Web (42-112); Revised Picture Book Responses + Review DUE

Week 11 ~ November 1, 3, (5)
M  Finish Charlotte’s Web (113-end)
W  “Historical Fiction” (ECL 8: 149-159)
F  NO Class Meeting (I’ll be at a Writing Center conference in Minnesota)
Begin The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963, Curtis (1-85)
Week 12 – November 8, 10, 12
M  Continue *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963* (86-168)
W  Finish *The Watsons Go to Birmingham—1963* (169-210)
F  “Realistic Fiction” (EGL 7: 129-140)

Week 13 – November 15, 17, 19 – *Children’s Book Week* (find more info at www.cbcbooks.org)
M  Begin From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun, Woodson (1-64)
W  Finish reading *From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun* (65-end);
    Group Project Topic Proposal & Bibliography DUE
F  1st Response to Self-Selected Reading for Group Project DUE

Week 14 – November 22, 24, 26
*Thanksgiving Break*

Week 15 – November 29; December 1, 3
M  2nd Response to Self-Selected Reading(s) for Group Project DUE
W  Response to Research DUE ~ MLA style in-text citations required
F  Group Presentation Outline DUE by end of class period

Week 16 – December 6, 8, 10
M  Group Presentations
W  Group Presentations
F  Group Presentations; Prepare for Final Exam

Finals Week
Section 001 (meets MWF@9:00) Final Exam is on Wednesday 12/15 from 12:30 – 2:30 PM
Section 003 (meets MWF@12:00) Final Exam is on Monday 12/13 from 8:00 – 10:00 AM

GRADES

Your final course grade will be based on the percentage you earn of the 200 points possible.

**Note:** I may have to adjust these point values if we add, cancel, or revise any assignments. Also, note that your Fairy Tale Picture Book Review Essay can be revised for a higher grade and/or for submission to the *Electronic Writing Portfolio.*

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Picture Book Responses + Review Essay</td>
<td>60 (25 + 35)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Poem Introduction (Annotations/Response + Presentation/Handout)</td>
<td>30 (15 + 15)</td>
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<td>Self-Selected Reading Responses</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>Group Project Presentation</td>
<td>25</td>
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<td>Participation (includes all informal writing + attendance; see #2 below)</td>
<td>35</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
<td>25</td>
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Grades are not curved.

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<tr>
<th>Percentage Range</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tr>
<td>91% (182 points) and above</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>81 – 90% (162-181 points)</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>71 – 80% (142-161 points)</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>61 - 70% (122-141 points)</td>
<td>D</td>
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<tr>
<td>60% (121 points) and below</td>
<td>F</td>
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ASSIGNMENTS AND OBJECTIVES

Objectives
By the end of this course, you should have a working knowledge of children's literature and lots of practice evaluating works in many of its various forms. If we do it right, you will also enjoy many of the readings and do some important thinking about children and literature.

Reading assignments include textbook chapters that describe the most common types of children's literature and introduce you to significant authors, works, and trends. We will also read "trade book" examples of works the following genre: poetry, fairy tale, picture book, and novel. These assigned readings will be supplemented by self-selected readings in several genre.

Writing assignments will include informal "responses"—some written in class and some of them written before class and posted on Web-CT—plus two formal review essays and an essay final.

You will also make two oral presentations—one individually and one as part of a group—in addition to your oral participation in class discussions and group work.

Here are brief descriptions of the major assignments . . .

Picture Book Review Essay ~ You will select and analyze a picture book that is not on our syllabus, evaluating how effectively its text and illustrations work together to present readers with a satisfying reading experience. You will choose your own audience for the review (teachers, literary critics, parents, etc.), focusing your review on the issues most relevant to this group.

Poetry Anthology ~ You will select a children's poem to contribute to our class poetry anthology and introduce the class to this poem in an individual oral presentation. You will choose a poem from a book in Booth Library's Ballenger Teacher Center (or another reputable source) and create a one-page handout that includes the poem and any illustrations plus an MLA-style citation for the collection in which you found the poem. You will also "annotate" a copy of the poem (writing analytic comments in the margins) and write an evaluation of the poem and the book. Your grade for this assignment will include a score for your "introduction" of the poem to the class (oral presentation + handout) plus a score for your evaluation (annotations + written evaluation).

Self-Selected Reading & Group Project ~ Along with a group of like-minded folks, you will read a children's novel in a specific genre (historical fiction, science fiction, ...), or one centered around a shared theme (bullying, sports, friendship...) or issue (censorship, award-winners...). Each groupie will read a different book and write informal responses to it plus a properly documented response to some research about the book and its author. The group will collaboratively organize a presentation to share their observations about this genre, theme, or issue with the class. You will get an individual grade for your written responses and a group grade for the oral presentation.

Other Writing Assignments ~ A score reflecting the quality and completeness of homework and in-class writings related to our class readings will be factored in to your participation grade.

Final Exam Essay ~ This will consist of a single essay written in class during the final exam period. In your essay, you will discuss three works that you've read this semester.

Note: This is a "writing-intensive" course, which means that you can revise one paper to submit to the Electronic Writing Portfolio. The Picture Book Review Essay is the obvious candidate.
RESPONSIBILITIES AND POLICIES

1.) Keep in touch! Late work will be penalized substantially unless we come to a clear understanding before the due date. If you are experiencing temporary difficulties, do contact me as soon as possible so we can work something out.

2.) Attendance counts. Participation too. If you have more than five (5) un-excused absences, you will receive few or no participation points. However, participation points will be awarded generously to people who share their ideas and questions with the class via Web-CT or class discussion.

3.) Plagiarism is the act of taking someone else's words or ideas and using them in your own writing without giving written credit to their author. This is a serious academic offense, which could result in a failing grade for the plagiarized paper or this course—and might incur other university penalties as well. At the very least, any paper with problematic citations will have to be revised before it can receive a grade. Tutors in the Writing Center (down the hall in CH 3110) can answer questions about how to quote, paraphrase, summarize, and document sources. Drop by or call (581-5929) to make an appointment to work with a tutor at any point in the writing process, from brainstorming, researching, and planning to final editing and documentation. The Writing Center is open 9:00 – 3:00 + 6:00– 9:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday plus 9 a.m.– 1 p.m. on Fridays.

4.) Formal essays should be double-spaced and typed/printed. Use MLA-style documentation for citations. (See www.eiu.edu/~childlit for more information:)

5.) Students with documented disabilities should contact the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) so we can work out appropriate accommodations.

6.) You must complete all major assignments to pass this course.
WebCT ID and Password

Your User ID for WebCT is your E-mail User ID. All EIU students have an E-mail User ID that is assigned a few days before beginning of their first semester at EIU. If you can't remember it, you can go to the EIU Home Page and search for your name.

Beginning Spring 2003, your password will be reset each semester (Spring, Summer, Fall), about 1 week before the beginning of the semester. You will not be able to get into any courses until your instructor has populated the class roster. This will allow students from the previous semester to check their WebCT grades after the semester has finished.

Your password will be set in the following formula - L6789F:

1. L - Represents the First letter of your Last name. This should be uppercase.
2. 6789 - Represents the Last 4 digits of your SSN.
3. F - Represents the First letter of your First name. This should be uppercase.

It is very important that you change your password before you start working in your WebCT class. This will help assure that no one is able to view your grades, get any sensitive information, or attempt to have you fail your course.

If you have changed your password and can't remember what you changed it to, contact your instructor or stop by our ITS Help Desk in the Gregg Triad Student Lab or call 581-HELP.

Questions or comments about WebCT at EIU can be referred to the ITS Help Desk at 581-HELP (581-4357)

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