Fall 8-15-1998

ENG 4905-001: Picture Book as Literature

Carol Stevens
Eastern Illinois University

Follow this and additional works at: http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall1998

Part of the English Language and Literature Commons

Recommended Citation
http://thekeep.eiu.edu/english_syllabi_fall1998/146

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the 1998 at The Keep. It has been accepted for inclusion in Fall 1998 by an authorized administrator of The Keep. For more information, please contact tabruns@eiu.edu.
Course description:
While many think of the picture book audience as the pre­
school or primary-school child, in fact, picture books are aimed at
every reader from young child to adult. Even the alphabet book
demonstrates a range from Arnold Lobel's gently humorous On Market
Street to Edward Gorey's equally humorous but macabre Gashleycrumb
Tinies.

How do we judge a picture book? As poetry? Fiction?
Design?
A true picture book creates meaning at the intersection of
words and pictures. We'll look at how both work, exploring
representatives of the entire genre, from the aforementioned
alphabet books to the graphic novel, with much discussion along the
way of changing representations of race, gender, ethnicity, age,
economic status and other topics.

Our goals will be:

-to develop a language and a theory for discussing picture books

-to enable each student to compile a descriptive and analytical
bibliography individualized according to his/her needs

-to give each student the opportunity to pursue independent
research on picture books and to present that research in an open
forum

-to give each student experience in analyzing styles and periods in
art and graphic design

-to examine representatives of the entire range of picture books
with regard to the specific topics mentioned in the course
description

-to encourage collaborative learning

-to provide room within the framework of the course for exploration
of individual students' picture book needs and interests
Texts:
Hunt, Peter. Criticism, Theory, and Children's Literature.
and the following picture books:
Base, Graeme. Animalia.
De Paola, Tomi. The Legend of Old Befana.
Keats, Ezra Jack. The Snowy Day
McDermott, Gerald. Arrow to the Sun.
Scieszka, John. The True Story of the Three Little Pigs, by A. Wolf
Sendak, Maurice. Where the Wild Things Are.
Van Allsburg, Chris. Jumanji.

Grading: Unless otherwise specified in class, your grade will be based upon:
A bibliographic citation, summary/description, and response journal entry for each of 25 picture books, including those assigned on the syllabus for class--50 points
A mid-term exam worth 25 points
A final exam worth 50 points
A research paper or other substantive research project worth 75 points
A class presentation worth 25 points
Attendance with lively and substantive participation, quizzes if given, and group work worth 75 points

Graduate students should consult with me about Graduate School requirements for additional work in courses at the 4000 level.

Academic Honesty, Research, and Collaborative Work: The English Department's policy is that "any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism--'The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author and representation of them as one's original work' (simile house Dictionary of the English Language) has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office."

I regard any violation of academic honesty including misappropriation of sources, unauthorized help, cheating on exams etc. with the utmost seriousness, and will apply penalties severely. Students who transgress will certainly receive an F for the assignment. Cheating, plagiarism, and faulty documentation on papers and exams will most likely result in an F for the assignment and probably an F for the course, and will be reported to the Judicial Board.
Papers: Must be typed, double-spaced, in MLA style, and must be on assigned topics. (Consult the Writing Center if you are unfamiliar with MLA style.) Late papers and papers turned in without preliminary assignments done on schedule may be penalized or rejected.

Responsibilities and Policies:

You must turn in all assigned writing to pass the course, as well as accumulating specific point totals.

Your written work for the course needs to be available as specified in the assignment handouts you receive, subject to modifications mutually agreed upon by the instructor and the class.

Class discussion and quizzes or short, discussion-oriented writing, cannot be made up, as the sole purpose of these is to assure readiness for the discussion that follows.

Course outline: You will be given a course outline next week, and due dates for all assignments. You are encouraged to have me read drafts of your papers in advance of the due date. We will schedule seminar oral reports at the first class meeting, and will adhere to that schedule. Consider that, for the time during which you present, you ARE the teacher, and that all other class members will be responsible for the material you present.

Ground rules for discussion:

We offer our experience as our truth, and agree to respect the experiences of the others in our class.

We acknowledge that our experience is limited, and that limited experience may cause us to draw shaky conclusions.

We agree actively to pursue information about the subjects we are studying, to avoid stereotypes, and to encourage thought.

We agree to share what we think and believe without demeaning or devaluing anyone else's experiences.

We agree to create an atmosphere in which everyone feels safe to discuss the material of the course and our ideas about it openly.

Students with Disabilities:

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodation, please contact the Coordinator of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

NOTE: Every effort has been made to spell policies out clearly here and on the syllabus you will receive, but some changes are a normal part of every semester. For any alteration of assignment or policy, an announcement in class will be considered sufficient notification, so keep informed. Remaining in the course after these policies have been discussed and clarified signals that you have accepted them and agree to abide by them.