

**I. CATALOG DESCRIPTION:**

- A. Department Information  
Division: Humanities and Social Science  
Department: English  
Course ID: ENGL 155  
Course Title: Children's Literature  
Units: 3  
Lecture: 3 Hours  
Prerequisite: ENGL 101
- B. Catalog and Schedule Description:  
A survey of literature written for children with emphasis on values common to all significant literature. This transfer course is taught simultaneously with English 055, a non-transfer course. Assignments differ for the two courses although the students participate in the same lectures.

**II. NUMBER OF TIMES COURSE MAY BE TAKEN FOR CREDIT: One**

**III. EXPECTED OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS:**

Upon completion of this course, the students will be able to:

- A. Evaluate critically literature for children ages 2-14 and discuss the literary merits of specific works representing the many categories of children's literature i.e. picture book, fantasy, folk tale biography, poetry, fiction (including its many subdivisions), etc.
- B. Apply the terminology of literary criticism in analyzing specific works they have read.
- C. Identify types of illustrations used in picture books and critically evaluate the illustrations as they support the theme, plot, characterization, and style of the picture book.
- D. Explain the criteria used in evaluating different genres, e.g. picture book, fiction, fantasy, poetry, folk tale, and biography.
- E. Recognize many of the books in the major award winning categories, e.g. Caldecott award winners, Newberry award winners, and the California Young Reader Medal award winners. (See enclosed list).
- F. Explain the history and development of children's literature as a genre from 1600 to the present.

**IV. COURSE CONTENT:**

- A. The Picture Book
  1. Caldecott award winners
  2. Animal stories
  3. Family life stories
  4. Holiday stories
  5. Environmental
  6. Fairy tales
  7. Folk tales and myths
- B. The Folk Tale
  1. Fairy tale
  2. Fable
  3. Legend
  4. Myth
- C. Fantasy
  1. Particular rules
  2. Limitations dealing with human and animal stories

- D. Poetry
  - 1. Critical analysis of specific poems
    - a) Various age groups
    - b) Vocabulary of critical analysis: rhyme, onomatopoeia, alliteration, symbol, image, simile, metaphor, personification, tone
  - 2. Ways of ordering poetry
    - a) By themes such as humor, nature, holidays', adventures, pets, people, seasons, wisdom and beauty, life at home
    - b) By age group
    - c) By specific authors
    - d) By types of poems e.g. sonnets, haiku, limerick, free verse, narrative, ballad, and lyric
- E. Biography
  - 1. Various types of biography
    - a) Authentic biography
    - b) Fictional biography
    - c) Biographical fiction
  - 2. Application of terms
    - a) Authenticity
    - b) Bias
    - c) Theme
    - d) Documentation
    - e) Historical milieu
    - f) Characterization
  - 3. Outstanding authors including Russell Freedman, Clara Ingram Judson, Genevieve Foster, James Daughterty, May McNeer.
- F. Fiction for Children Ages 8-14
  - 1. Family life fiction
  - 2. Fiction of minorities
  - 3. Survival stories
  - 4. Animal stories
  - 5. "Bildungsroman"
  - 6. Psychological fiction
- G. Historical Overview
  - 1. Authors' lives as they relate to specific works
  - 2. Attitudes, biases, and banning in children's literature
  - 3. Awards in children's literature:
    - a) Newberry award
    - b) Caldecott award
    - c) California Young Readers' Medal Award
    - d) Edgar Allen Poe award
  - 4. Development of fiction for children
  - 5. Development of illustration in picture books for children

**V. METHODS OF INSTRUCTION:**

- A. Lectures
- B. Large group discussions
- C. Films, tapes, and records
- D. Card file critiques
- E. Small group work

**VI. TYPICAL ASSIGNMENTS:**

- A. Card file. Each student needs to submit a card file of a minimum of 50 books that he has read during the semester and write a critique of at least 150 words on each card. Only 20 of these books may be picture books. These books may include the core books, which the class reads.

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- B. Midterm and final essay examinations. These will cover the content of the course including picture book, folk tale, fantasy, poetry, biography, and fiction for children ages 8-14, and historical overview. They will demonstrate the student's ability to critically evaluate the above genres and specific books and poems. Sample test question: What was John Newbury's contribution of children's literature?
- C. A minimum of ten pages (2,500 words) of critical analysis of specific texts. These must comprise at least two papers. This requirement is beyond the card file requirement.

**VII. EVALUATION(S):**

- A. Essays analyzing the literature (2,500 words minimum)
- B. Card file (demonstrating critique of 50 books minimum)
- C. Quizzes on reading assignments
- D. Midterm and final examinations
- E. Class participation

**VIII. TYPICAL TEXT(S):**

This course should include at least 10 books for the 8-14 year old level that are read and discussed in common by the class. Typical books could include:

Household Tales by the Brothers Grimm

The Hobbit by Tolkein

Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame

Charlotte's Web by E.B. White

The Cay by Ted Taylor

Julie of the Wolves by Jean George

Dacey's Song by Cynthis Voigt

Lincoln: A Photo Biography by Russell Freedman

Winners of the Newberry and the Caldecott Awards

Supplementary Texts: Some professors may want to supplement with a standard textbook; however, these texts are usually used in courses in education departments and are directed towards elementary school teachers, rather than towards students of literature. Examples are:

Children's Literature in the Elementary School, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Huck, Hepler, Hickman, and Kiefer

Children and Books, 9<sup>th</sup> edition. Zena Sutherland

**IX. OTHER SUPPLIES REQUIRED OF STUDENTS: None**