

# English 275: Children's Literature, Spring 2020

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Office Hours: Mon/Wed 12:30-1:30 and by appointment.

## Course Description

From the catalog: "Read, select, and present materials suitable for elementary school readers." The focus of this class will be middle-grade fiction, materials appropriate for children in grades 3 through 6.

## Course Goals:

- (Re)discover the pleasures of children's literature;
- Have an understanding of the history of children's literature;
- Become familiar with past and present authors writing stories for children;
- Understand the educational value of different genres in children's literature;
- Be able to recognize and understand the use of literary elements in children's literature;
- Be able to evaluate children's novels on the quality of writing and the needs of students;
- Come to understand issues involved with selecting and teaching various categories of children's books;
- Learn techniques for discussing literature and incorporating literature into the classroom.

Pre-Requisites: English 101 or 150.

## Text Rental:

Griffith & Frey. *Classics of Children's Literature*. 6<sup>th</sup> ed.

Norton, Donna E. *Through the Eyes of a Child: An Introduction to Children's Literature*. 8<sup>th</sup> ed.

Text Purchase: *The Wizard of Oz* by L. Frank Baum; Scholastic choice books.

Good Writing. I expect you to write well. Many of you are going to be teachers, so you need to take special care that anything you write does not cause others to think poorly of you. If this is an area in which you know you struggle, I am happy to work with you. Visit me! I also recommend visiting to the Tutoring and Learning Center (TLC) to improve your writing skills.

## Plagiarism:

Plagiarized occurs when you use another's words or ideas without properly citing them. Every assignment will be submitted to plagiarism-checking software (the canvas dropbox). I will fail work that is plagiarized and report offenders to the dean's office.

## Communication

I will use your university email account to communicate with you outside of class. Please check your email regularly. I will not discuss grades or anything of a private nature on email—you will need to come to my office. Anytime I am in my office, I am happy to talk about this class, your other classes, writing, reading, study abroad, being a university student, job prospects, etc. If my office hours are not convenient, I will be happy to make an appointment for another time.

If you have questions about an assignment, do NOT email me your assignment and ask me to look at it. I am happy to meet with you in my office to go over any questions you may have.

### Cell Phones:

Phones must be put away and off or silenced during class, except during specific class-designated activities. If I see you using a phone I will ask you to leave the room. If I see you using a phone, tablet or other device during a quiz or exam, you will fail the quiz or exam.

### Attendance is Mandatory

Much of the learning in this class happens through observation and participation and cannot be made up. There are no “excused” absences; you can miss twice with no penalty. If long-term medical problems or repeated family emergencies cause attendance issues, you should consider withdrawing. **Please talk to me!** Below is the number of points lost per absence.

These points will be deducted at the end of the semester from the final grade:

1-2 classes = 0 / 3 classes = -5 / 4 classes = -10 / 5 classes = -15 / 6 classes = -25 / 7 classes = -35  
**8 classes = fail the class**

Being Late: If you are chronically late, your tardiness may be counted as missed classes.

Exams: There will be a midterm and a final exam. Once the exam has begun, you will not be allowed to leave and return to complete your exam.

### Quizzes (six given, 10 points each, lowest score dropped)

I use quizzes to evaluate whether or not you have read and understood readings. Quizzes cannot be made up.

### Coursework and Point Values

Quizzes	50 points
Fairy Tale Comparison Essay	50 points
Midterm	50 points
Genre Literature Circle	100 points
Author Presentation & Resource List	50 points
Thematic Unit	100 points
Journal	60 points
Final Exam	50 points

<u>Grades</u>	A	94%	479 – 510
	A-	90%	459 – 478
	B+	88%	448 – 458
	B	82%	418 – 447
	B-	80%	408 – 417
	C+	78%	397 – 407
	C	72%	367 – 496
	C-	70%	357 – 366
	D+	68%	346 – 352
	D	60%	306 – 345
	F	59%	fewer than 306

Grading/Canvas Dropbox. Assignments must be submitted to the Canvas dropbox. For most assignments I will also require a paper copy. Please listen to instructions, read the assignments and submit material as requested.

Late work. In general, I do not accept late material. However, this varies by assignment, so read the instructions for each assignment to learn about its late penalty.

Topics Covered This Semester

<b>Weeks</b>	
1 - 3	Traditional Literature
3 - 6	<i>The Wizard of Oz</i>
7 - 10	Genre Literature
10 - 15	Themes
<b>16</b>	<b>Final Exam Week</b>

Tentative Due Dates

- Jan 27: Textbook Chapter 2; video: “The Danger of the Single Story”
- Jan 29: Textbook Ch 6; Anthology pp22-29; watch Disney’s “Beauty and the Beast”
- Feb 10: Fairy Tale Essay due; *The Wizard of Oz*, chapters 1-11
- Feb 12: *The Wizard of Oz*, chapters 12-end
- Feb 24: Midterm Exam
- March 2: Fantasy novel; Textbook Chapter 7
- March 9: Historical Fiction novel; Textbook Chapter 10

SPRING BREAK

- March 23: Contemporary Realistic Fiction novel; Textbook Chapter 9
- March 30: Mixed Genre novel; Choice Textbook chapter: 4, 5, 8, 11, OR 12
- April 6: Textbook Chapter 3
- April 13: Thematic Unit novel; Journal due
- April 27: Thematic Unit assignment due

- Feb 19 – April 8: Author Presentation / book by author
- April 27 – May 6: Thematic Unit presentations

Wed. May 13, 8:00am Final exam

English Department Policy: Students may not make audio, video, or photographic recordings of lectures or other class activities without written permission from the instructor. Anyone violating this policy will be asked to turn off the device being used. Refusal to comply with the policy will result in the student being asked to leave the classroom and possibly being reported to the Dean of Students.

Each year, the Provost asks that faculty remind students of the policies described in the **Rights and Responsibilities** handbook. Here is the link:

<http://www.uwsp.edu/dos/Pages/Academic-Concerns%20for%20Students.aspx>