

LIS 9361 CHILDREN'S MATERIALS (BIRTH - 7 YEARS): EVALUATION AND USE

Graduate Program of Library and Information Science
The University of Western Ontario
Winter 2021

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Course format: Asynchronous online course delivered via OWL.

Zoom meetings: I have set aside Monday mornings from 10 am – Noon to be available for Zoom meetings. Meetings may be booked with individual students during this time or, if needed, at other times.

Email: Many queries may be resolved through email. I check my email several times a day and normally would respond very promptly.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An introduction to materials for young children, primarily contemporary but also historical. Major genres, authors, illustrators and trends in literature for young children. Evaluation of library materials, both print and non-print and both fiction and informational, for young children. Supporting the development of young children as readers and information seekers through their interaction with library materials.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of readings, assignments, and class participation, students will be able to:

1. identify the reading and information seeking needs and interests of very young children and develop collections and services to meet these needs (Program goal 2, objective 1h; Program level learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 and 9);
2. identify, evaluate, select, and provide access to library materials for young children in a variety of formats (Program goal 2, Objective 1g; Program learning outcomes 1, 2, 3, 7, 8 and 9).

COURSE CONTENT

Topics covered

- Becoming a reader and reader response theory
- What is a picture book?
- Illustration
- Picture books for babies, toddlers, and preschool children
- Alphabet, counting, patterned and other concept books
- Beginning-to-read books
- Poetry

- Traditional literature: nursery rhymes; folk & fairy tales
- Information books
- Audio and visual materials
- Publishers and publishing of materials for young children
- Issues: e.g., screen time for young children; violence; diversity; picture book apps; format

COURSE MATERIALS

General professional resources

There are many general textbooks on children's literature. Most public libraries, including London Public Library, have good collections both in print and through their electronic book collections. Representative titles include:

Edwards, Gail, and Judith Saltman. *Picturing Canada: A history of Canadian children's illustrated books and publishing*. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2010.

Giorgis, Cyndi, and Joan I. Glazer. *Literature for young children: Supporting emergent literacy, ages 0 – 8*. Boston: Allyn & Bacon/Pearson, 2009.

Nodelman, Perry, and Mavis Reimer. *The pleasures of children's literature*, 3rd ed. Boston: Allyn & Bacon, 2003.

Short, Kathy G., Carol Lynch-Brown, and Carl M. Tomlinson. *Essentials of children's literature*, 8th ed. NY: Pearson, 2014.

Sutton, Roger, and Martha V. Parravano. *A family of readers: The book lover's guide to children's and young adult literature*. Somerville, MASS: Candlewick Press, 2010.

Journal articles

Access to full text journal articles is available through Western Library's databases. Students can access similar electronic databases through London Public Library's web page.

Primary Materials

Most weeks, students will be expected to look at primary materials for children including picture books, board books, beginning to read books, information books, recorded sound and films.

METHOD OF EVALUATION

Evaluation will be based on the following assignments and activities

1. Picture Book Reading assignment (25%; variable, sign up due dates)
2. One of four optional assignments (your choice) (30%)
 - Author / illustrator analysis (Due 1:00 pm, Friday, February 5, 2021)
 - Fairy tale analysis (Due 1:00 pm, Friday, February 26, 2021)
 - Diversity pathfinder (Due, 1:00 pm, Friday, March 12, 2021)
 - Create your own assignment (negotiated topics and due dates)
3. Collaborative resource – Stories to statues (25%; Due 1:00 pm, Friday, April 2, 2021)
4. Preparation and participation (20%)

COURSE POLICIES:

1. **Late assignments** are not normally accepted. Failure to submit an assignment by the due date will result in a grade of 0 for an assignment.
2. Students determined to have taken part in **inappropriate collaboration** on an assignment will receive a grade penalty. The grade assigned by the instructor will be divided among the students involved. For example, if two students have been found to have collaborated inappropriately on an assignment, each will be given half of the averaged grade.
3. **Grading** for this course conforms to the guidelines published by FIMS in the MLIS Handbook. Note please that assignments in the 80% plus range contain fresh originality, unusually clear understanding of course topics, exceptional writing practices, and overall is of high professional quality. Please consult the MLIS Guidelines to the Grade Range available in the Graduate Student area on the FIMS Intranet.
4. **Statement on Academic Offences:** Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/scholastic_discipline_grad.pdf
Plagiarism: Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea, or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies Academic Calendar at http://grad.uwo.ca/current_students/regulations/13.html.

SUPPORT SERVICES: Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental Health@Western (<http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/>) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.