

English 2330

Children's Literature

Course Syllabus
Fall Semester, 2006

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"A vast treasure of thoughts, deeds, and dreams lies waiting to be discovered in books. Literature begins with Mother Goose. It includes Sendak as well as Shakespeare, Milne as much as Milton, and Carroll before Camus. Children's literature is a part of the mainstream of all literature, whose source is life itself."

(Huck, Charlotte S., Susan Hepler, and Janet Hickman. *Children's Literature in the Elementary School*. 5th ed. Orlando, Florida: Holt, Rinehart and Winston, 1993. [p. 5]).

I. TEXTS:

Jacobs, J. S. & Tunnell, M. O. (2004). *Children's Literature, Briefly*. Upper Saddle River, New Jersey: Pearson.

White, E. B. *Charlotte's web*. New York: HarperCollins, 1980. (Cost: \$6.99)

NOTE: There is a copy of the text on reserve in the library.

II. OBJECTIVES:

At the conclusion of a literature course, the successful student will be able to

- enjoy, appreciate, and evaluate selections from various literary genres;
- think critically and write about the various readings;
- understand and use in literary analysis the aspects of fiction, including plot, setting, characterization, theme, and point of view;
- understand the use and importance of figurative language—including symbols, metaphors, similes, and image—in analyzing the readings;
- use the tools of literature in oral and written literary analyses.

More specifically, the successful student of **Children's Literature** will also be able to

- name major authors and illustrators of children's literature, past and present;
- identify changes which have occurred in children's literature and discuss the kinds of literature which are currently being published;
- describe children's response to literature based upon an understanding of their development, growth, and needs;
- name and apply literary criteria in evaluating children's literature;
- identify the literary genre of children's literature and name representative samples of each;
- discuss current issues relating to children and children's books.

III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

Your grade in Children's Literature will be dependent on the following:

Completed Card File	100
Ten Card File assignments @ 10 points each.....	100
Comprehensive Final	75
Ten quizzes on reading assignments @ 5 points each	50
Test on <i>Charlotte's Web</i>	25
Literary Elements Paper.....	75
Author/Illustrator Report	50
Ungraded Assignments	<u>25</u>
TOTAL	500

GRADE EQUIVALENTS

95%-100% = A	80 - 82 = B-	70 - 72 = C-59 and below = F
90 - 94 = A-	77 - 79 = C+	67 - 69 = D+
87 - 89 = B+	73 - 76 = C	63 - 66 = D
83 - 86 = B	70 - 72 = C-	60 - 62 = D-

IV. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. **CARD FILE** — See handout on Card File requirements

2. **COMPREHENSIVE FINAL** — The comprehensive final will include multiple-choice, true/false, and short answer questions and will cover information in the text, on handouts, on videos and films seen in class, and on in-class lectures. You will need a Scan-Tron sheet (available at the college bookstore) and a soft-lead (#2) pencil.

3. **QUIZZES**
 - (A) *CHARLOTTE'S WEB* Test
A 25-point test will be given on *Charlotte's Web*. If you miss this test, you can make it up, but 5 points will be deducted from your score--regardless of the reason for missing the test.

(B) **READING ASSIGNMENT QUIZZES**

Eleven 5-point quizzes will be given on each of the assigned readings, usually at the beginning of class on scheduled days (see Class Schedule). A missed quiz on the chapter reading **CANNOT** be made up--regardless of the reason for missing the quiz. (You can do an Extra Credit assignment to make up for a missed quiz.) At the end of the semester, the lowest quiz score will be dropped.

4. **LITERARY ELEMENTS PAPER and AUTHOR-ILLUSTRATOR REPORT** — See handouts given in class. A Literary Elements paper or Author-Illustrator report submitted late will have 5 points deducted on the two calendar days following the deadline (excluding Saturday and Sunday) and 10 points deducted on any day thereafter—regardless of the reason it is late. See Course Schedule for due dates.
5. **UNGRADED ASSIGNMENTS** — There will be five assignments given throughout the semester; each is worth five (5) points, and full credit will be given as long as the assignment is turned in on time. Late papers will lose one (1) point. See the Writing Guidelines handout for specific topics. Failure to submit the ungraded assignments will result in a loss of five points for each missing assignment. (In an emergency, you may e-mail your assignment to me, but I must receive it by 5:00 p.m. on the date it is due.)

V. **ATTENDANCE:**

You are expected to attend class. Roll will usually be taken each class. **Please respect other students and do not bring food, drinks, or cellular phones to class.**

NOTE: In college, there are no "excused" absences. Students participating in extra-curricular, social, athletic, or leadership activities (or even in off-campus field trips or activities required for other courses) do so by their own choice and are responsible for the consequences of those choices. Students participating in these activities have the responsibility to see that work is turned in and tests are taken on time (or before).

VI. **AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT (ADA) INFORMATION**

If you are a student with a disability (or you think you might have a disability) and you would like accommodations, contact Sherri Dial in the Disability Resource Center (located in the Advisement Center [SSC]; phone 652-7516). The Disability Resource Center will determine eligibility of the student requesting special services and determine the appropriate accommodations related to the disability. Such disabilities might include hearing impairment, visual impairment, dyslexia, ADD, etc.

VII. **EXTRA CREDIT CHOICES**

The outlined course schedule is quite intensive and should keep most students fully engaged in the course. Those who are doing well do not need extra credit; those who are not doing well should concentrate on improving their performance, not on doing extra work. Therefore, extra credit generally is not given in this course. Basically, keep up or catch up! Think about what a student in a previous semester said: "I figure that if I need extra credit to get an **A**, then I am not an **A** student." However, having said that and in spite of my basic philosophy, you may earn up to 10 points in extra credit in the following two choices:

1. (5 points) Watch on video or read the Alder Faculty Honor Lecture, "Babies, Brains, and Books: Reading Makes a Difference," that I gave on January 22, 2002. Write a 2-3 page report telling what you learned from the lecture and how it might affect you as a parent or a teacher. The video is available in the library; a written copy of the lecture is on reserve in the library, or you may obtain a copy from me.
2. (5 points) Watch a movie version of one of the books you have read. Write a 2-3 page paper comparing and contrasting the movie and the book. Consider such questions as the following:
 - Was the plot changed in any way? If so, how, and what was the effect on the story? Why do you think the movie makers chose to make this change?
 - Were the characters realistic and believable? Why or why not?
 - Were there stylistic touches in the book that could not be duplicated in the movie? If so, what effect did that have on the enjoyment of the story?
 - Did you prefer the book or the movie? Why?

VIII. COURSE SCHEDULE

Every effort will be made to adhere to the attached schedule. However, changes invariably occur as the course progresses, and those changes will be announced in class. If you do miss a class, it your responsibility to contact another student who can fill you in if changes are made. You are expected to be prepared by reading the assigned pages prior to the beginning of the discussions.

Work hard, but ENJOY what you are reading!!

