

English 372.01: Contemporary Literature for Young People/ Origins of Modern Literature for Young People

Spring 2017, Professor: Jan Susina

Class Meets: Tuesday & Thursday 12:35 – 1:50 p.m.

Meeting Place: STV 221-B

Office: Stevenson: 402, Phone: (309) 438-3739, Email: <jcsusina@ilstu.edu>.

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday 11:00 a.m.—noon.

Website: ghostofthetalkingcricket.squarespace.com

Tentative Syllabus

Jan. 17: Introduction and Overview to of the Course

Jan. 19: L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* (chapters 1-10)

Jan. 24: L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* (chapters 11-24)

Oral Report 1: Victor Flemming's film adaptation of *The Wizard of Oz* (1939). (Aljean Harmetz's *The Making of the Wizard of Oz*, 1977)

Jan. 26: Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (chapters 1-6)

Oral Report 2: Walt Disney's film adaption *Alice in Wonderland* (1951). (Leonard Maltin's *The Disney Films*, 2000)

Deadline for Sign Up for the Caldecott Medal-winning Picture Book

Jan. 31: Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (chapters 7-12)

Oral Report 3: Updating Alice: Norton Juster's *The Phantom Tollbooth* (1961). (Norton Juster & Leonard Marcus's *The Annotated Phantom Tollbooth*)

Feb. 2: Andrew Lang, ed., *The Blue Fairy Book*: French Fairy Tales: "Little Red Riding Hood," "Sleeping Beauty in the Wood," "Cinderella," "Beauty & the Beast," "The Master Cat," "Bluebeard"

Oral Report 4: Fairy Tales on Broadway: Stephen Sondheim & James Lapine's *Into the Woods* (1986). (Stephen Sondheim's *Look, I Made a Hat*, 2010)

Feb. 7: Andrew Lang, ed. *The Blue Fairy Book*: German Folk Tales: "Rumplestilzkin," "Hansel & Grettel," "Toads & Diamonds," "The Brave Little Tailor" "Snow White" (website)

Oral Report 5: Walt Disney's film adaptation of *Snow White and the Seven Dwarves* (1937). (Leonard Matlin's *Disney Films*, 2000) _____.

- Feb. 9: Jon Scieszka *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*
 Oral Report 6: Art Spiegelman & Francoise Mouly's *Little Lit: Folklore and Fairy Tale Funnies* (2000). (Jeet Heer's *In Love with Art*, 2013) _____.
Paper #1: Caldecott Picture Book Paper Due
- Feb. 14: Beatrix Potter's *The Complete Adventures of Peter Rabbit*.
 Oral Report 7: Arnold Lobel's Frog and Toad series: *Frog & Toad are Friends*, *Frog & Toad Together*, *Frog and Toad All Year* & *Days with Frog & Toad*. (George Shannon's *Arnold Lobel*, 1989) _____.
- Feb. 16: Margaret Wise Brown's *Goodnight Moon*
 Brown's *Runaway Bunny* (Reserve at Milner Library)
 Oral Report 8: The Modernist Children's Book: Gertrude Stein's *The World is Round* (1938). (Edith Thacher Hurd's "The World is Not Flat" in Gertrude Stein & Thacher Hurd's *The World in Round*, 2013) _____.
- Feb. 21: E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web* (chapters 1-11)
 Oral Report 9: E.B. White/Ann Carroll Moore and the Controversy over *Stuart* (1945). (Jill Lepore's "The Lion and the Mouse: The Battle That Reshaped Children's Literature." *New Yorker* 12 July 2008 (website) _____).
Paper #1: Caldecott Book Analysis Due
- Feb. 23: E.B. White's *Charlotte's Web* (chapters 12-22)
 Oral Report 10: Ann Nolan Clark's *The Secret of the Andes* (1952) the winner of the Newbery Medal for 1953. (Ann Nolan Clark's "Newbery Acceptance Paper" in Bertha Mahony Miller & Elinor Whitney Field's *Newbery Medal Books: 1922-1955*, 1955) _____.
- Feb. 28: A.A. Milne's *Winnie-the-Pooh* (chapters 1-5)
 Oral Report 11: The Inspirations for *Winnie-the-Pooh*: Lindsay Mattick's *Finding Winnie: The True Story of the World's Most Famous Bear* (2015) _____.
- Mar. 2: A.A. Milne's *Winnie-the-Pooh* (chapters 6-10)
 Oral Report 12: The sequel to *Winnie-the-Pooh*: A.A. Milne's *The House at Pooh Corner* (1928). (Paula Connolly's *Winnie-the-Pooh & The House at Pooh Corner: Masterwork Studies Series*, 1994) _____.
Proposal for Critical Paper Due (1-2 pages)
- Mar. 7: Crockett Johnson's *Harold and the Purple Crayon*
 Oral Report 13: The Influence of Golden Books on Children's Literature. (Leonard S. Marcus's *Golden Legacy*) _____.
- Mar. 9: **Midterm Exam**
- Mar. 14: Spring Break: no class.

- Mar. 16: Spring Break: no class.
- Mar. 21: Dr. Seuss's *The Cat in the Hat*
 Oral Report 17: Dr. Seuss Gets Political: Dr. Seuss's *The Buttle Battle Book* (1984). (Ruth McDonald's *Dr. Seuss*, 1988) _____.
- Mar. 23: Quentin Blake, ed., *The Norton Book of Nonsense*: Sections 1-7; pages 13-140.
 Oral Report 15: The Nonsense of Roald Dahl's *BFG*. (Mark West's *Roald Dahl*, 1992)
- Mar. 27: Lois Lenski Children's Literature Lecture: "Using Social Media to Promote Children's Literature" Betsy Bird, Evanston Public Library, Schroeder Hall 130, 7-- 8:15p.m.
- Mar. 28: Quentin Blake, ed., *The Norton Book of Nonsense*: Sections 8-15: pages 141-274.
 Oral Report 16: Nonsense Poetry of Shel Silverstein's *Where the Sideway Ends* (1974). (Lisa Rogak's *A Boy Named Shel: Life and Times of Shel Silverstein*, 2007) _____.
- Mar. 30: Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* (Part 1: chapter 1-13)
 Oral Report 17: Children's Biography of Louis May Alcott: Cornelia Meigs's *Invincible Louisa: The Story of the Author of Little Women* (1933). (Cornelia Meigs's "Newberry Acceptance Paper" in Bertha Mahony Miller & Elinor Whitney Field's *Newbery Medal Books: 1922- 1955,1955*) _____.
- Apr. 4: Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women* (Part 1: chapters 14-23)
 Oral Report 18: Sisters & Sibling Rivalry: Beverly Cleary's *Ramona's World* (1999). (Pat Pflieger's *Beverly Cleary*, 1991) _____.
- Apr. 6: Louis May Alcott's *Little Women* (Part 2: chapters 24-35)
 Oral Report 19: Portrait of the Protagonist as a Young Writer: Beverly Cleary's *Dear Mr. Henshaw* (1983). (Pat Pflieger's *Beverly Cleary*, 1991)
 _____.
- Apr. 11: Louisa May Alcott *Little Women*, (Part 2: chapters 36-47)
 Oral Report 20: Portrait of the Protagonist as Young Writer: Louise Fitzhugh's *Harriet the Spy* (1964). (Virginia Wolf's *Louisa Fitzhugh*, 1974) _____.
- Apr. 13: Judy Blume's *Are You There God? It's Me Margaret*
Proposal for Critical Paper Due (1-2 pages)
- Apr. 18: Judy Blume's *Are You There God? It's Me Margaret*
 Oral Report 21: The Girl Code: Rosalind Wiseman's *Queenbees and Wannabes* (2009) _____.

Apr. 20: S.E. Hinton's *The Outsiders*

Oral Report 22: Tom Sawyer as Good/Bad Boy: Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876). (John Seelye's Introduction to Penguin edition of Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* 1986)_____.

Apr. 25: Ezra Jack Keats's *The Snowy Day*

Ezra Jack Keats's "Caldecott Award Acceptance" (website)

Oral Report 23: Nancy Larrick's "The All-White World of Children's Books" *Saturday Review*, Sept. 11, 1965, 63-65.

Apr. 27: Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*

Maurice Sendak's "Caldecott Award Speech" (website)

Critical Paper Due

May 2: J.K. Rowling *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* (chapters 1-8)

Oral Report 24: Harry Potter's Word on the Web: J.K. Rowling's *Pottermore*
_____.

May 4: J. K. Rowling's *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* (chapters 10-19)

May 8-12: Final Exam TBA.

Goals of Course:

This course is intended to introduce students to the growth of modern British and American children's literature during the last one hundred years. This course will occasionally look back at significant earlier children's texts that influenced modern and contemporary writers for children. Readings will primarily on influential children's texts from the Anglo-American tradition that have been published during the twentieth and twenty-first century

Required Texts:

L. Frank Baum. *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*. Dover Evergreen Classics Edition.

Lewis Carroll. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. Dover Thrift Edition.

Andrew Lang, ed. *The Blue Fairy Book*. Dover. Jon Scieszka. *The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales*. Illustrated by Lane Smith. Puffin.

Beatrix Potter. *The Complete Adventures of Peter Rabbit*. Warne.

A. A. Milne. *Winnie-the-Pooh*. Illustrated by Ernest Shepard. Penguin.

Quentin Blake, ed. *The Penguin Book of Nonsense Verse*. Penguin.

Dr. Seuss. *The Cat in the Hat*. Random House.

Margaret Wise Brown. *Goodnight Moon*. Illustrated by Clement Hurd. HarperCollins.

E.B. White. *Charlotte's Web*. Illustrated by Garth Williams. HarperCollins.

Crockett Johnson. *Harold and the Purple Crayon*. HarperCollins.

Ezra Jack Keats. *The Snowy Day*. Puffin.

Maurice Sendak. *Where the Wild Things Are*. HarperCollins.

Louisa May Alcott. *Little Women*. Dover Evergreen Classics.

Judy Blume. *Are You There God? It's Me Margaret*. Delcorate Books.

S.E. Hinton. *The Outsiders*. Speak.

More Required Texts:

J.K. Rowling. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*. Illustrated by Mary Granpre. Scholastic.

Additional critical reading on website and handouts.

Recommended Text:

Joseph Gilabdi. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 7th Ed. MLA.

Class Format:

All students are asked to read the material prior to class and come prepared to discuss the texts in class. The course will be conducted as a seminar which means that students are expected to come to class for active discussion of the reading assignments. All students will give an oral presentation on a prearranged topic and construct a short (2-3 page) handout on the topic for every member of the class. Students are encouraged to produce a Powerpoint presentation to accompany their presentation. Students will write two critical papers and take two exams. They will be a series of short homework assignments given throughout the semester. Class participation will be factored into the final grade. This also means that class attendance will be factored into the final grade.

Class Attendance:

Class attendance is an important and valuable aspect of the course. If you aren't in class, you ought to have a good reason for your absence. Since you can't be two places at the same time, avoid scheduling other activities during class time. Since class participation will be evaluated as part of your responsibilities in this course, missing more than three classes will lower your final grade one half a letter grade for each additional class sessions missed. Turn off all cell phones and pages during class. Three or more interruptions during the course will lower a student's final grade.

Critical Paper:

Each student will write a critical paper on one of the children's books read in common in the class. Students will write a short (1-2 page) proposal for their research topic, which needs to be approved by the instructor. Undergraduates will write an 8-10 critical paper while graduate students will write a longer 12-15 page critical paper on a children's book. Written work should conform to the format presented in the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* for appropriate quotation and citation. Critical papers need a minimum of **eight** secondary sources in their Works Cited section. **Only half** of the secondary sources used in the Works Cited can be electronic sources. The paper needs to be original work written by the student and created specifically for this course.

Caldecott Winning Picture Book Analysis:

Each student will read and write a book analysis (4-6 pages) on a picture book, which has been awarded the Caldecott Medal as the outstanding picture book of the year by the American Library Association. In addition to reading and analyzing the book, students are required to read the Caldecott Award Acceptance by the illustrator, which is generally published in *The Horn Book* magazine and subsequently collected in anthologies produced by the journal. Using the illustrator's essay and other sources, the student will explore and suggest the reasons that this specific book was selected as the outstanding picture book for this particular year. Books reflect the periods of history in which they

are produced, how does this book speak to this particular period in history? The essay needs to consider the historical and cultural context of the book which may help explain why this book was selected as the best picture book of the year. The book selection needs to be approved by the instructor. No more than two students can write on the same picture book. Since the textbooks for the class include *The Snowy Day* and *Where the Wild Things Are*, those two picture books are excluded from this assignment. The paper needs to be original work written by the student and created specifically for this course.

Class Presentation & Presentation Handout:

Each student will give a fifteen-minute class presentation selected from a list of rearranged topics. Students will introduce the topic to the class and lead class discussion on the subject. In addition to the presentation, each student will construct a short (1-3 page) handout to accompany their presentation to be distributed to each member of the class on the day of the presentation. Students are encouraged to provide a PowerPoint presentation. Presentation handouts should list at least **three** secondary sources as part of the handout's Works Cited section.

Exams:

There will be a midterm exam and a final exam in the course. The exams will include objective and short identification as well as essay questions. Students are asked to purchase blue books to writing their essays. The final exam will be held according the time posted in the Final Exam schedule when it released. Final exam week is May 8-12.

Grading:

Grades on assignments will be assigned according to the following standard. Grades for papers: A+=100, A=95, A-=92, B+=87, B=85, B-=82, C+=72, D+=67, D=65, D-=62, F=50. The final grade in the course will be assigned according to the following scale: A= 90 and above, B=80 and above, C=70 and above, D=60 and above, F=50 or lower. Illinois State University does not assign plus or minus in terms of final grades.

Class Assignments:

Through the semester, students will be asked to complete a series of short homework assignments linked to the reading and class discussion. A student missing a class in which in-class assignment is given or a class when a homework assignment is due will be unable to turn in the assignment late. This will be factored into your Class Assignment and Class Participation section of your final grade.

Plagiarism/ Cheating:

Please review the Illinois State University policy in the *Undergraduate Catalog* or *Graduate Catalog* under "Academic Integrity" and chapter 2: "Plagiarism and Academic Integrity" in the *MLA Handbook*. Plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses and will be punished by failure on an exam, paper, project, and in some cases result in failure in the course and/or expulsion from the university. All written work submitted for this courses needs to be your own and produced for this specific course. Please consult the *MLA Handbook* for appropriate format for quotations and citations for your written work.

Grading:

Grades will be assigned according to the following standard:

Class presentation: 5%

Presentation Handout 10%

Caldecott book paper: 10%

Midterm Exam: 20%

Final Exam: 20%

Critical Paper: 20%

Class Assignments & Class Participation: 15%