English 505: History of Children’s Literature
Spring, 2013
Dr. Susan Louise Stewart

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903-468-8624 (office phone)
903-886-5260 (dept. phone)
903-886-5980 (fax)

Office Hours:
Tues/Thurs: 1:30-4:00, or by appointment; I will generally respond to e-mails within 24 hours of receiving them Monday-Thursday. If I receive your e-mail early enough on Friday, I'll try to respond that day.

Catalog Description
A survey of the historical development of children’s literature in relation to its cultural, intellectual, and political contexts. Could include how British and American writers changed paradigms for and perceptions about “childhood” and “children’s literature” by developing literature that entertained and instructed young readers, as well as how conditions of print culture, political change, and social status influenced the delivery and reception of the genre.

Course Description:
We will trace the development of children’s literature through some of the early texts associated with children—Token for Children, A Pretty Little Pocket Book, and The History of Little Goody Two Shoes, for instance—through more contemporary texts that have received attention via the Newbery Medal, which is “awarded annually by the American Library Association for the most distinguished American children's book published the previous year” (“John Newbery Medal”). Additionally, we will read some texts that received the Phoenix Award, which the Children’s Literature Association gives to novels that did not receive the critical attention they should have at the time of their initial publication. Through these texts, we will identify and discuss the construction of children’s literature and its various incarnations. At the same time, students will historicize the critical approaches to children’s literature through the following journals: Children’s Literature, Children’s Literature Association Quarterly, The Lion and the Unicorn, and Children’s Literature in Education.

Course Objectives:
Become conversant in the history and themes of children’s literature
Become conversant in the political, cultural, and ideological influences regarding the production of children’s literatures
Become conversant in the scholarship regarding historical treatments of children’s literature.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Students will produce between 15-20 pages of graduate-level text that reflects the student’s understanding of some facet of children’s literature.
Required Texts
Any unabridged edition is fine and any format is fine including audible editions

Resource Texts:
http://www.amazon.com/Kiddie-Lit-Construction-Childrens-Literature/dp/0801881706/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1354631531&sr=8-1&keywords=beverly+lyon+clark


Historical Texts
Janeway, *Token for Children* (1671):
Free e-book:
http://books.google.com/books/about/A_Token_for_Children.html?id=qihMAAAAYAAJ

or

Newbery, *A Pretty Little Pocket Book* (1744) (Kindle)

*The History of Little Goody Two-Shoes*
Available through

Or from forgottenbooks.com:

Newbery:


http://www.amazon.com/Witch-Blackbird-Elizabeth-George-Speare/dp/0547550294/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1351565214&sr=1-1&keywords=witch+of+blackbird+pond+elizabeth+george+speare

Assignments and Grading

● Article Presentation (and annotated entry), 40 pts.
● Caldecott Picture book Presentation, 40 pts.
● 15-20 pages of critical/scholarly attention to a facet of children’s literature:
  2 conference papers (2,500-3,000 words each + proposal, 350-500 words), 50 pts. each (100 pts. total)
  1 article-length paper (5,000-6,000 words), 100 pts.

Article Presentation: Students will identify and discuss an article from *Children’s Literature*, *Children’s Literature Association Quarterly*, *The Lion and the Unicorn*, or *Children’s Literature in Education* that offers insights into the historical nature of criticism regarding children’s literature. The presentation should be no more than 20 minutes.

Caldecott Picture Book Presentation: Students will identify a picture book that is a Caldecott winner or honor text. Your job is to historicize and problematize the text. The presentation should be no more than 20 minutes.
Critical/Scholarly Treatment of Text: Students will write either 2 conference papers and proposals for each (50 pts. each/100 pts. total) OR an article-length text offering insights regarding some facet of children’s literature (100 pts.).

Course Policies

Late Papers: I seldom accept late papers, and if I do, it is at my discretion. Additionally, expect no better than a C on a paper that is turned in late. A late paper cannot be revised.

Attendance: I know how very complicated life can be. Still, as graduate students, you have greater responsibilities than undergraduate students in terms of attendance and discussion in that you are demonstrating your professionalism through the classes you take and how you conduct yourself in those classes. If you miss classes, I will assume one of two things: you have other priorities or you're not taking the course seriously. You DON'T want me to think that, for I won't make you a priority and it will be difficult to take your work seriously. The classes I teach are my priority; I expect the same from you. If you miss more than two class periods, expect your grade to reflect as much. If you miss more than three class periods, I reserve the right to drop you.

Revision Policy: Revisions are at my discretion, but I generally encourage students to revise. Some circumstances that preclude revision:
1. The assignment has been turned in late
2. You have made an A or B on the assignment
3. I perceive that the mistakes are careless
4. The assignment does not meet the basic requirements (incomplete, doesn’t meet word count, etc.) I have established
5. The paper has been recycled or was not written by you. A recycled paper is one written for another class and handed in under the pretense that it was written for this class. Students are welcome to use material written for other classes, but they must first clear it with me, and I will explain what needs to be done in order for it to be acceptable.

Incomplete Grades: Only under the direst of circumstances will I grant an incomplete for the course, and then it depends on the Dean as to whether or not the incomplete will be permitted. You will have to supply documentation in order to obtain an incomplete. That doesn't come from me. It comes from the dean.

Academic Honesty Policy: Texas A&M University-Commerce does not tolerate plagiarism and other forms of academic dishonesty. Conduct that violates generally accepted standards of academic honesty is defined as academic dishonesty. "Academic dishonesty" includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one's own), recycling papers written for other classes, cheating on exams or other
course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material. See the following helpful resources regarding plagiarism:

1. your MLA Handbook
   http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml

Ultimately, you are responsible for indicating when you have used specific words, sentences, or paragraphs, which belong to other writers. These words, sentences, or paragraphs should be designated via quotation marks and in-text citations. Additionally, identify when you use ideas from other sources. If you use the exact wording of something you've read or if you paraphrase it, provide a specific citation indicating where you found your information. If in question, cite it, and indicate that you’ve cited it by using quotation marks and in-text citations. Think of it in these terms: knowledge is a commodity, especially in the academic community. If you had a brilliant idea, or a wonderful way with words, would you like it if someone used your idea or words without acknowledging you? In short, I will fail papers that are copied or that do not acknowledge sources. If you have questions, ask me, and I will help you. If I discover a paper has been plagiarized, I will fail the paper, which will likely result in an F for the class. Further, according to the Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3], penalties for students guilty of academic dishonesty include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion.

Egregious plagiarism such as recycling a paper, turning in a paper that you did not write, copying/pasting text without citation, or similar actions will result in one or more of the following: a 0 for the assignment, an F for the class, disciplinary action administered by the university.

Technology Requirements, Access, & Navigation:

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course. You will need access to the following technologies:

1. Access to eCollege. All written assignments will be uploaded to the eCollege dropboxes.
2. Internet access/connection – high speed recommended
3. Word Processor: MS Word [doc or docx]. If you do not have MS word, you can save your texts as rtf (rich text format) or txt (plain text). Be aware that saving documents in rtf or txt will possibly cause problems with formatting, and formatting is important in this class. If saving your document in txt or rtf, contact me, and I will help you identify a solution.

Our campus is optimized to work in a Microsoft Windows environment. This means our courses work best if you use a Windows operating system (XP or newer) and a recent version of Microsoft Internet Explorer (8.0).
Your courses will also work with Macintosh OS X along with a recent version of Safari 2.0 or better. Along with Internet Explorer and Safari, eCollege also supports the Firefox browser (3.0) on both Windows and Mac operating systems.

I strongly recommend that you perform a “Browser Test” prior to the start of your course. To launch a browser test, login in to eCollege, click on the “myCourses” tab, and then select the “Browser Test” link under Support Services.

You will need your CWID and password to log in to the course. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, contact Technology Services at 903.468.6000 or helpdesk@tamuccommerce.edu.

Communication and Support and Primary Communication Tools
I rely mainly on e-mail, class time, and face-to-face appointments. I also encourage you to visit me in person (if you’re on campus) during office hours: Face-to-face, Tues/Thurs: 1:30-4:00, or by appointment; I will generally respond to e-mails within 24 hours of receiving them Monday-Thursday. If I receive your e-mail early enough on Friday, I’ll try to respond that day.

While I reply to individual e-mails with non-campus e-mail addresses, if I send out a mass e-mail, it will go to your campus e-mail address. Please check your campus e-mail daily.

eCollege Student Technical Support:
Texas A&M University-Commerce provides students technical support in the use of eCollege. The student help desk may be reached by the following means 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Chat Support: Click on “Live Support” on the tool bar within your course to chat with an eCollege Representative.

Phone: 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

Email: helpdesk@online.tamucc.org to initiate a support request with eCollege Technical Support Representative.

Help: Click on the “Help” button on the toolbar for information regarding working with eCollege (i.e. How to submit to dropbox, How to post to discussions etc…)

University Student Technical Support
The writing center located in the Hall of Languages is a great resource. They work with graduate students all of the time. Take advantage of their expertise.
University Procedures/Policies

Drop a Course: Students may drop a course by logging into their myLEO account and clicking on the hyperlink labeled “Drop a class” from among the choices found under the myLEO section of the Web page.

Administrative Withdrawal: I reserve the right to administratively drop students for excessive (more than 3) absences.

Students with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148

e-mail: StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu
Website: Student Disability Resources & Services at http://web.tamu-commerce.edu/studentLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/

Course Schedule

Please note this schedule is subject to revision
I will give students plenty of notice if anything is revised

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<tr>
<th>Week/Date</th>
<th>Assignment</th>
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<td>1 1/15-18</td>
<td>Janeway, <em>Token for Children</em> (1671):</td>
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<td>2 1/22-25</td>
<td><em>The History of Little Goody Two-Shoes</em></td>
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<td>3 1/29-31</td>
<td>Brink, <em>Caddie Woodlawn</em> Caldecott Article</td>
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<td>4 2/5-7</td>
<td>Forbes, <em>Johnny Tremain</em> Caldecott Article</td>
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<td>Spring Break!!!!</td>
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<td>Finals 4/13-15</td>
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