



Texas A & M University – Commerce
Department of Education Curriculum and Instruction

RDG 529
Children's Literature: Focus on STEAM Tradebooks
All Online
May-Mini 2014

Instructor: Dr. Susan Szabo, Associate Professor

Office Location: Education South 226 on the Commerce Campus

Through Virtual Office: Allow 24 hours for response

Email: Susan.Szabo@tamuc.edu or through eCollege

COURSE INFORMATION

Materials – Textbooks, Readings, Supplementary Readings:

There are no textbooks. You will have a webquest that directs all your learning. You will go to Doc Sharing and download the webquest to your desktop. Do **NOT** copy, as this has active web links.

Purpose

The purpose of this course is to give participants an opportunity to explore the many excellent trade books available for children. These experiences will provide a foundation for using children's literature in the classrooms.

The primary learning intent of this course is to facilitate **your exploration of literature for children** in a way that is personally meaningful to you. Using a variety of children's literature books while teaching STEAM courses will allow teachers to differentiate reading materials while teaching content.

Student Learning Outcomes/Objectives

Learning outcomes are achieved via the activities, readings, instruction, thinking and reflection that have occurred in this course.

Learning Outcome #1: Students will discover how children's trade books can be used for differentiation of instruction during STEAM instruction using content area TEKS.

Learning Outcome #2: Students will learn about the use of literature circles and the various assigned jobs that can be given to students while reading the same books.

Learning Outcome #3: Students will learn about readability and determine the readability of their textbook.

Learning Outcome #4: Learning is an active process. The student will be an active, reflective, and engaged participant in the learning process in this course by:

- participating in online discussion to identify key information and supporting detail as well as using the ideas of others and personal experiences to comment on an ah-ah moment;
- participating in webquest tasks gathering ideas (new and supporting for old) for changing or adjusting one's current understanding;
- participating in BDA strategies/activities to enhance the learning process;
- self-monitoring learning needs and seeks assistance when needed;
- use study habits necessary to manage academic pursuits and requirements;
- striving for accuracy and precision and clarification of ideas by the critical analyzes of textual information;
- uses the metacognitive process;
- writing clearly and coherently using standard writing conventions;
- synthesize and organize information effectively;

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

This course is developed around scientifically researcher based information. You will complete the Children's Literature: STEAM Trade Books Webquest that will lead your learning. You will also be an active participant online discussion as well as create your own questions from the material to stimulate critical thinking of yourself and your classmates.

Assignments: Activities / Assessments

This course is made up of a series of assignments and assessments to assist you in achieving the course objectives.

1) STEAM Trade Books Webquest

A Children's Literature: STEAM Trade Books Webquest has been developed to guide your learning. These webquest can be found in Doc Sharing. In addition, other reading materials will also be in the folder.

2) Before/During Activity

While you are going through your webquest, you will be asked to do some type of before/during strategy that has been embedded within each webquest. I asked you to do these to enhance your learning and it models for you the BDA format teachers should use in the lesson planning. In addition, they should help you complete the assignment successfully.

3) After Activity

You will have several activities that will completed which will help you be a more effective classroom teacher. These are discussed in detail on the webquest.

4) Online Discussion Reponses: These online discussion topics are found in eCollege. Follow the webquest directions to be successful with this activity

Grading

Grades will be determined via a simple point system and grading rubric (for creative final). **You** are responsible for reviewing them prior to submitting an assignment - they tell you all you need to know in order to earn a passing grade in this course.

Grades will be determined as follows:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
60-69%	D
Below 60	F

You are Responsible for keeping track of your points earned. Grades will be in the eCollege grade book. To read my comments about your scores, click on the score in the gradebook.

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology in your web enhanced course.

The following technology is required to be successful in this course.

- *Internet connection – high speed recommended (not dial-up)*
- *Word Processor (Microsoft Office Word – 2003 or 2007)*
- *Access to University Library site*
- *Access to an Email*
- *Access to eCollege.*

ACCESS, NAVIGATION and Log in Information

This course will be utilizing eCollege to enhance the learning experience. eCollege is the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx>.

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.

REPORT any problems immediately to helpdesk. It must come from you and not me.

COMMUNICATION AND 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. If you experience issues, while taking your exams or at any other point, feel free to contact the support desk.

- **Phone:** 1-866-656-5511 (Toll Free) to speak with eCollege Technical Support Representative.
- **Email:** helpdesk@online.tamuc.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 am online daily. If you have questions either, email me or post them in the correct week under My Questions, as others may have the same question. Please allow a 24 hour response time.

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES

Course Policies

1. Participation:

I consider class participation to be one of the most important, yet underrated elements of a student's education. There are numerous elements that go into class participation:

- a. You need to have somewhat frequent, and preferably intelligent, contributions to class discussion.
- b. Reading assignments completed.
- c. Engage in self-evaluation, critical thinking, and reflective learning.
- d. Have polite and civil interactions with all members of the class ["All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment." (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct)].
- f. Failure to prepare and participate effectively will negatively impact the learning processes devised for the class. "All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment" (Student Guide Book, pp. 67-73).

3. Scholarly Expectations: All works submitted for credit must be original works created by the student uniquely for this class. It is considered inappropriate and unethical, particularly at the graduate level, to make duplicate submissions of a single work for credit in multiple classes, unless specifically requested by the instructor. Work submitted at the graduate level is expected to demonstrate higher-order thinking skills and be of significantly higher quality than work produced at the undergraduate level. In addition, all assignments turned in should have gone through the editing process. In addition, all work should go through the writing/editing process.

4. Research: Research is part of my job requirements. All faculty members that work at the university must research and publish their research. As action research helps me to determine the worth of class assignment I have developed, I like to do research on these activities. Thus, all your reflective responses to the planned class activities (seen in course requirements) maybe used to fulfill my research requirement. However, all responses that I use in research articles will be anonymous. That is, your name will not be used anywhere in my research

5. Plagiarism of writings and/or other materials in any form will result in a grade of “F” for the course and may result in your dismissal from the program. Please cite your references carefully and consistently!

Plagiarism: Plagiarism **WILL NOT** be tolerated and will result in an automatic **F** in the course. Various versions of your work and final papers will be run through Turnitin software - this is not meant to "catch" you in the act, but rather assist you in seeing possible areas that may be unintentionally plagiarized and allow for editing your work. **If you are caught plagiarizing, you will be immediately dropped from the master’s program.**

University Specific Procedures:

ADA Statement

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
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. (See *Code of Student Conduct* from *Student Guide Handbook*).

University Services Offered to You Free (you’ve paid for it through your tuition)

A. Academic Support: Students requesting accommodations for disabilities must go through the Academic Support Committee. ALL students with disabilities should stop by Office of Disability Resources and Services where they can fill out an application, attach recent documentation, and apply for eligibility. For those students who are approved, the staff will provide each of the student’s professors with a letter of accommodation from our office. We will send letters each semester—after being notified of the need by the student. For more information, the services are located at Halladay Student Services Building—Room 303 D, their phone number is (903) 886-5835.

B. Financial Aid Support: You will be dropped on Monday, September 3rd if you have not paid the balance due on their accounts. If you need assistance to pay your balance, please contact the Loan Office (903-886-5051). There are also **forgivable loans, so check them out.**

In addition, if you have financial aid and do not complete the course or receive an F, they will expect you to pay back the money.

C. As a student, your email account is through MyLeo. Please check the status of your accounts as this is the only way the university has on contacting you and informing you of important information. It is available to them 24/7 at <https://leo.tamu-commerce.edu/login.aspx>. Also, who must check daily and delete or archive your emails so that none are returned to sender. It will not be returned and you may miss important information. **It is your responsibility to empty your email daily, so that nothing will bounce back to the sender.**

If you find your myleo account hard to access daily, you can go into the account and have your items forwarded to another email. But, you have to set it up. If you want to do this but don't know how, call help-desk.

D. Medical Services: As a student, you have access to the medical facilities and doctors on campus. They offer services for treatment of illness and injury. The staff includes a Physician Assistant, which is a health care professional licensed to practice medicine with physician supervision. Although there is not a physician present every day, they are available for consultation as needed. Student Health Services is located on the first floor of Henderson Hall, in the Clarence G. Allen Student Health Center. They are open from 8-12 and 1-5 Monday through Friday.

E. Campus Police: If you have locked yourself out of your car, or if you need help of any kind while on campus, contact the campus police at 903-886-5868.

F. Counseling Services: You can get help with your personal, academic and/or career concerns. Counseling may deal with issues related to academic progress, daily living, adjustment to the university and relationships with others. Counseling Services are free to university students. The Counseling Center is located in the Student Services Building #204, is open Monday through Friday from 8:00-5:00pm and you can call 903-886-5868.

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

This will be given to you in class. **If you are caught plagiarizing, you will be immediately dropped from the master's program. If you are caught plagiarizing, you will be immediately dropped from the master's program.**