

English 504.0W1, Summer 1, 2014

Picture Books, Graphic Narratives, and the Art of Illustration

Dr. Susan Stewart

susan.stewart@tamuc.edu

Office: 903-468-8624 (but I won't be in my campus office during the summer)

Fax:

Virtual Office Hours:

M/W 10:00-11:00 in the virtual office and via e-mail (I won't be in my campus office); however, it is always best to send an e-mail rather than ask questions through the virtual office because I sometimes get caught up in reading and responding and forget about the virtual office. Also, although my "office hours" are on Monday and Wednesday from 10:00 until 11:00, I will check my e-mail frequently and will do my very best to respond to your questions within 24 hours Monday through Thursday.

Catalog Description:

An examination of the historical, cultural, ideological, aesthetic, material, and critical contexts that influence and produce picture books and graphic narratives written for young readers, including a study of how words, images, and institutions shape our response to those texts.

Course Description:

During this course, we will examine, as the title course suggests, picture books, graphic narratives, and the art of illustration. More specifically, we'll be exploring the mechanics, aesthetics, and most important, the ideological nature of texts with images, pictures, and illustrations.

Required Texts: Please note that you will be reading more than the texts listed below, as I will be providing several texts in order to reduce your expenses.

YOU MUST HAVE ACCESS TO A CURRENT MLA HANDBOOK. IF YOU DON'T FOLLOW MLA FORMAT FOR YOUR ASSIGNMENTS, THE BEST GRADE YOU CAN MAKE IS A B.	Yes, I have shouted regarding MLA, but using the format is a requirement for the class.
Coleman, <i>White Socks Only</i> , 9780807589564	Wiles, <i>Revolution</i> , 0545106079 (also available electronically)
Sendak, <i>Where the Wild Things Are</i> , 9780064431781	Uchida, <i>The Bracelet</i> , 9780698113909
Leaf, <i>Story of Ferdinand</i> , 9780140502343	Wisniewski, <i>Golem</i> , 9780618894246
Rey, <i>Curious George</i> , 9780395150238	Innocenti, <i>Rose Blanche</i> , 9781568461892
Guay, <i>A Flight of Angels</i> , 1401221475 (also	McCloud, <i>Understanding Comics</i> ,

available electronically)	9780060976255
DiCamillo, <i>The Miraculous Journey of Edward Tulane</i> ; 9780763647834 (also available electronically)	Abel, <i>Life Sucks</i> , 9781596431072

- Contemplate the role of images in picture books, graphic narratives/comics, and illustrations (notably, “illustration” has recently assumed important and different distinctions)
- Become more familiar with the mechanics, aesthetics, and the ideological nature of texts with pictures and illustrations
- Become more familiar with some of the theoretical concepts regarding picture books and graphic narratives
- Become conversant in the scholarship that informs our understanding of picture books, graphic narratives, illustration or the ideological nature of the texts.
- Gain an understanding of the cultural and social milieu that produces these texts and genres
- Produce an annotated bibliography and introduction that demonstrates your understanding of some facet of picture books, graphic narratives, or illustration

Student Learning Outcomes:

- Write a proposal that is suitable to submit to a conference call for papers.
- Produce an annotated bibliography and introduction that demonstrate your understanding of some facet of picture books, graphic narratives, or illustration

Assignments and Percentages:

Annotated Bibliography	10%
Proposal Assignment 1	10%
Proposal Assignment 2	10%
Final Project: Annotated bibliography with introduction	40%
Discussion Board/Participation: Please note that I will break this up into 3 segments of 10% each.	30%

Proposal Assignment:

Find 4 scholarly articles dealing with picture books in one or more of the following journals:

Children's Literature

Children's Literature Association Quarterly

Children's Literature in Education

The Lion and the Unicorn.

The articles should not deal with how to teach picture books; rather, identify articles that discuss picture books in the way we're discussing picture books.

Read the articles carefully, provide the bibliographic information (bib information is the citation--last name, first name, article title, journal title, etc.--use your MLA handbook!), and summarize (annotate) them--identify the main argument and what seems important about the article (200

words). Quote from the article, but do so sparingly and ALWAYS provide page numbers when you do. Once you've done that, consider what the articles have in common with each other and (or possibly how they differ) discuss that in a paragraph (300 words) that precedes the annotated bib entries. That will serve as your introduction to the annotated bib.

Do not use an article older than 2004

Do not use author interviews

Do not use book reviews

I will provide a sample

Proposal Assignment:

You'll be writing 2 "practice" proposals. You'll need to contextualize an idea and identify an argument/thesis. Provide a title. Include a bibliography with 3 scholarly entries. The body of the text should be between 400-500 words. I will provide a sample.

Final Project:

Write an annotated bibliography consisting of 15 scholarly sources and an introduction. I've placed an abbreviated sample in the doc sharing. Bibliographic entries should be between 150-200 words, not counting the actual citation. Your introduction should be between 650-700 words, and will provide an overview and a unifying theme regarding the bibliography.

Discussion Board/Participation/Late Posts

Please do not post an entry solely to establish the fact that you've fulfilled the requirement of posting. I'm pretty good at identifying when that happens, and it's likely that such a posting won't get full credit. Also remember that you'll be participating through a discussion board. Discussion suggests back-and-forth interactions. Thus, that's what I want to see. Back-and-forth. Remember the discussion board is 30% of your grade. It's not a "gimme"—you have to work for it by posting your initial response and responding to others. Your initial post needs to be a minimum of 300 words; you need to respond to at least one post, 200 words. Meeting the minimums might result in a minimum grade.

Unless otherwise instructed, post your initial discussion board by 10:00 pm each day. Responses to other posts should be posted by noon the following day.

I recommend that you type everything in a word document and save it. Then copy/paste it. Technology isn't always reliable.

- Read your posts carefully; proofread for errors and possible miscommunications. It's still an English class.
- The best posts will be substantive, intellectual, and thought provoking. I'll let you know if they aren't.

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.

The expectations for this course are slightly different because it is on-line. On-line courses require us to rethink what's meant by attendance. I won't designate a particular time to be "in class" or on-line; however, I will set deadlines for handing in assignments and posting discussions to the discussion board. Because it is a summer class, we're trying to cram everything into a five-week time period. We will meet Monday through Wednesday (virtually), but the time won't be set. On Thursday, you'll respond to a post from the previous day and use it and Friday as work days. The paper assignments for the first four weeks will be due on Saturday by noon. If you won't be available on certain days, you can work ahead because everything will be available (but please note: the schedule could change somewhat). Thus, if you know you won't be able to post something on an assigned date, you can do so before—but not after. Once I have finished with a discussion board, I don't generally go back to it. And I won't go back to the previous week; neither will anyone else. Thus, the post would be useless.

Criteria for Grading:

Discussion Board/Participation: I'm looking for discussion board posts that are substantive in content, intellectual, thought provoking, sophisticated (both in content and stylistically), state more than the obvious, and meet the word requirement (or go beyond; meeting minimums can result in a minimum grade). Please write in complete sentences and proofread for errors.

Annotated Bibliography1: Sources should be scholarly and relevant (none older than 2004) and correctly follows MLA formatting. Summaries are accurate, complete (no need for me to read the article), and reflect graduate-level writing.

Proposals: Although you'll be writing "practice" proposals, I still expect them to meet the levels associated with graduate student writing. They need to be sophisticated both stylistically and in terms of content.

Final Project: As with all of the writing you do in this course, the final project should reflect the nature of the course. Your bib entries should identify the argument and convey the gist of the article. If I have to go to the article to figure out what you're trying to convey, then it has not sufficiently conveyed the ideas established in the articles. The introduction should identify a theme and provide an overview of the annotated bibliography that follows.

Incompletes:

Only under a few 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:

First, you should know that almost every semester, at least one graduate student in my class will plagiarize. Please be careful. 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.

Virtual Etiquette:

Students are expected to be civil, polite, and accommodating to differences of opinion. University policy provides the means for dismissing students who do not meet these requirements, and I will take politeness very seriously. Be kind to each other and realize that because we can only read your words and emoticons and not your body language or facial expressions or hear the tone of your voice, misunderstandings can occur.

Also, please don't use weird fonts or use ALL CAPS unless you want to SHOUT (which is appropriate sometimes, but not very often).

Americans with Disabilities Act Statement:

Students requesting accommodations for disabilities must go through the Academic Support Committee. For more information, please contact the Director of Disability Resources and Services at 903-886-5835.

Abbreviated Schedule Subject to revision!

Week 1: Picture Books

M-W: Reading ideologically; discussion boards each day; for full discussion board credit, apply to other posts by noon the next day.

Thursday: Post a response to the previous day's discussion board.

Saturday: Annotated Bib due (dropbox), noon

Week 2: Picture Books

M-W: Understanding images; *Where the Wild Things Are*, *The Story of Ferdinand*, *Curious George*; discussion boards each day; for full discussion board credit, apply to other posts by noon the next day.

Saturday: Proposal Assignment #1 (dropbox), noon

Week 3: Picture Books and Illustrated Texts

M-W: Understanding images and illustrations; *White Socks Only*, *The Bracelet*, *Rose Blanche*, *The Golem*; discussion boards each day; for full discussion board credit, apply to other posts by noon the next day.

Saturday: Proposal Assignment #2 (dropbox), noon

Week 4: Illustrated Texts and Graphic Narratives

M-R: *Revolution*, McCloud, *Life Sucks*, *Flight*. Discussion boards each day; for full discussion board credit, apply to other posts by noon the next day.

Week 5: Toward the Final Project

M: Submit 3 entries for annotated bib (final project)

T-W: Work Days

Thursday: Final project due by 10:00 pm