

**Course Prefix/Number/Title:** ENGL238/Children's Literature

**Number of Credits:** 3

**Course Description:** This course will help students who are preparing for an Elementary Education/Early Childhood program. Topics covered are Developmental Characteristics of Children, Literature and Teaching of Reading, Criteria for evaluation and selection of books for children, and the following Genres of literature and their characteristics: Poetry and plays, picture books, traditional literature, modern fantasy, realistic and historical fiction, biography and informational books, and literature for a diverse society. Also covered is the Presentation of Literature in the Classroom.

**Pre-/Co-requisites:** None

**Course Objectives:** Students completing the course should:

Find pleasure and enjoyment in children's literature through reading many children's books.

Show familiarity with the various genres of children's literature and learn how each might be integrated into the K-8 school curriculum.

Have read and appreciated some prose and poetry of all kinds and for all levels from preschool through eighth grade.

Know evaluation criteria for children's picture books, fiction, and nonfiction.

Know the elements of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and illustration as they apply to evaluation and analysis of literature.

Understand developmental stages and types of books appropriate to use within each stage.

Be aware of First Amendment rights of children and how these rights pertain to offering children choice in their reading materials. Be familiar with the difference between selection and censorship. **(Gen Ed Goal #8)**

Be familiar with the historical development of the various genres of children's literature.

Be able to design, role play, and teach lessons which encompass a variety of literature-related activities and purposes, including nature and environmental concerns. **(Gen Ed Goal #5)**

Demonstrate an ability to read orally both prose and poetry in an entertaining fashion and to develop storytelling techniques. **(Gen Ed Goal #9)**

Be able to appreciate the aesthetic quality of illustrations in children's picture books; also perceive the illustrations' contributions to the story.

Be aware of teaching strategies that promote culturally responsive instruction.

Show awareness of the way diverse cultures have been and are portrayed in children's literature.  
**(Gen Ed Goal #8)**

Be able to locate and use selection aids to identify books that meet the needs of children.

Have begun building a personal library of children's books and professional books in the field.

Be familiar with various Internet sites related to children's literature as well as other literature-related media such as CD-ROMs, DVDs, videotapes, audiotapes, and films. **(Gen Ed Goal #3)**

Be familiar with seminal research studies showing the benefits of reading literature aloud to children, teaching reading with literature (literature-based instruction), and using literature across the curriculum.

**Instructor:** Faye Bernstein

**Office:** Online

**Office Hours:** Use the eMail tool within the online course to communicate with the instructor. Course eMail messages will be checked daily. If you have a technical problem, contact the Distance Education office by calling 1-701-228-5479 or 1-888-918-5623 (toll-free)

**Email:** Use online course eMail tool.

**Class Schedule:** Online

**Textbook:**

Title: Essentials of Children's Literature

Author: Lynch-Brown, C. & Tomlinson, C.M., 6th ed.

Publisher: Allyn and Bacon

Edition/Year: 2008

ISBN-13: 978-0-205-52032-9

Additional information : none

Type : **Required resource**

Title : Charlotte's Web & The Tale of Peter Rabbit

Author : E.B. White and Beatrix Potter

Publisher : Harper Collins and F.Warne & Co.

ISBN : 0-06-441093-5 0-7232-4770-6

Additional information : none

Type : **Required resource**

Title : Where the Wild Things Are

Author : Maurice Sendak

Publisher : Harper Trophy

ISBN : 13:-978-06-443178-1

Additional information : none

Type : **Required resource**

**Course Requirements:**

Complete weekly lessons.

Read a chapter a week and take Chapter Tests and some Open Book Tests.

Answer Essay Questions for some of the chapters.

Write 3 Essays (Based on the 3 children's books mentioned above.)

Complete all assignments by the dates listed.

**Tentative Course Outline:**

The topics presented will help students who plan to go into Education. The value of literature to children, different genres of literature, and strategies for instruction are covered.

**General Education Goals/Objectives:**

Through literature, children learn about other cultures. **(Gen Ed Goal #8)**

Being exposed to different types of literature can motivate children to enjoy reading. **(Gen Ed Goal #9)**

Through DVD books, e-books, and online literature, children benefit from the connections between technology and literature. **(Gen Ed Goal #3)**

Through literature, children can learn about nature and environmental concerns. **(Gen Ed Goal #5)**

**Relationship to Campus Theme:**

Reading and writing topics will include nature and environmental concerns.

**Classroom Policies:**

Regular participation is expected.

All quizzes and exams can be taken on any computer with Internet access.

Students should select an environment conducive for testing (distraction-free area at home, a computer lab at a library, etc.)

Students can take the tests at any time between the given dates and times.

Each test will be available for a limited period of time.

**Academic Integrity:** The academic community is operated on the basis of honesty, integrity, and fair play. It is expected that all students as members of the college community adhere to the highest levels of academic integrity. This means that:

Students are responsible for submitting their own work. Student work must not be plagiarized.

Students must not cooperate on oral or written examinations or work together on evaluated assignments without authorization.

To learn how to avoid plagiarism in your work, review the website from Purdue university, [Is It Plagiarism Yet?](#)

Violations of academic principles such as cheating, plagiarism or other academic improprieties will be handled using the guidelines outlined in the Student Handbook.

**Disabilities and Special Needs:**

If you have a disability for which you need accommodation, contact the Learning Center to request disability support services: Phone 701-228-5477 or toll-free 1-888-918-5623.

**Evaluation**

**Grading Method:** Your final grade is determined by total points.

**Grading:** Grades will be calculated using the following criteria:

18 Tests-Some are timed; some are Open Book = 273 Pts.

13 Chapter Essay Questions: 20 pts. each = 260 Pts.

3 Writing Assignments: 100 Pts. each = 300 Pts.

Total Points for the Semester = 833

A=749-833 points (90-100%)

B=664-748 points (80-89%)

C=583-663 points (70-79%)

D=499-582 points (60-69%)

F=Below 499 Total Points

**Section Instructor:** Faye Bernstein

**E-mail:** gatsby@ndak.net