

Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College
English 3311 Children's and Adolescent Literature
Spring 2020

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Office Hours: M/T 3-6, W 2-6 and by appointment

Class is W 6-8:45 p.m.

Course Description

In English 3311 you will interpret and evaluate literature written for children and adolescents in various genres, including picturebooks, and various forms of fiction. The course is a reading and writing intensive course.

Course Outcomes

In this course, students should acquire and demonstrate the following:

1. ability to define children's and adolescent literature (daily writing, exam)
2. knowledge of the history of children's and adolescent literature (daily writing, exam)
3. understanding of the different genres of children's and adolescent literature (daily writing and exam)
4. cultural literacy, specifically an appreciation of the value of literature as social critique, pedagogical tool, and more (daily writing, exam)
5. critical literacy, specifically evaluating picturebooks, and novels for children and adolescents (essay analyses)
6. college-level writing skills (essay analyses).

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Student Learning Outcome #1 – Students will be able to construct documents that demonstrate coherence, development, organization, and appropriate/effective grammar, usage, and mechanics.
2. Student Learning Outcome #2 – Students will be able to analyze and interpret literary works by applying principles of critical thinking, literary criticism, or theoretical engagement.
3. Student Learning Outcome #3 – Students will be able to produce researched documents that demonstrate the ability to locate a variety of credible sources, employ them effectively through quotations and paraphrases, integrate them smoothly into the writer's own prose, and document them correctly using the style appropriate to the document.

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Required Books (Not the reading order)

(Note: Several of these have movie versions, while you are welcome to watch them this does not substitute for reading the books—many have been changed significantly from the original!)

Black Beauty, Anna Sewell, (978-1420952681)
Little Town on the Prairie, Laura Ingalls Wilder (978-0060581862)
My Side of the Mountain, Jean Craighead George, (978-0142401118)
Who Will Comfort Toffle?, Tove Jansson, (978-1770460171)
The Snowy Day, Ezra Jack Keats, (978-0140501827)
Last Stop on Market Street, Matt de la Peña/Christian Robinson, (978-0399257742)
Julian is A Mermaid, Jessica Love (978-0763690458)
Maus I: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History, Art Spiegelman, (978-0394747231)
The Arrival, Shaun Tan, (978-0439895293)
Charmed Life, Diana Wynne Jones, (978-0688155469)
The Midwife's Apprentice, Karen Cushman, (978-0547722177)
The Graveyard Book, Neil Gaiman, (978-0060530945)
I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter by Erika L. Sánchez (978-1524700515)
The View From Saturday, E.L Konigsburg, (978-0689817212)

Grade Determination

Assignment	Points Possible	Date Due	CO Measured
Daily Writing /Discussion/Quizzes	200	In Class	1, 2, 3, 4, 6
Picture Book Analysis	200	2/26	5, 6
Literature Analysis	200	4/1	5, 6
Final Essay	200	4/29	4, 5, 6
Final Exam (cumulative)	200	5/6	1, 2, 3, 4

Grading

A: 900 – 1000
B: 800 – 890
C: 700– 790
D: 600 – 690
F: 0 – 590

Course Texts

In order to succeed in this course, you must read the course texts; not having texts does not constitute an excuse for not completing assignments.

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Attendance, etc. policy

I use a token system. You begin the course with three tokens. You may exchange a token for:

- early departure or late arrival from and to class (10+ minutes)
- an absence
- an extra 48 hours to complete a major assignment (except the final exam)
- one pass on a discussion question.

It is up to you how you use your tokens. If you use all your tokens you will be penalized for any further early departures/late arrivals/absences/late assignments/missed questions. If you have all three tokens left at the end of the course, and an A average (**including an A** in class participation), you may skip the final exam. If you have all three tokens but less than an A average, you will receive an extra five points on the final exam.

Late Papers/Assignments

To pass the class you must successfully complete and turn in to me each assignment by the due date. If you fail to turn in even one assignment, you may earn an F for the course.

Grade Changes

Please discuss your grades with me during the semester. There is no extra credit available once the class has finished, but to make up points you may re-do assignments within two weeks of their return. This does not apply to the final exam. Once the semester is over and I have entered grades into the system, however, I will not consider grade changes except where I have made a number miscalculation.

ADA Statement

SRSU Rio Grande College is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. The Disability Services Coordinator assists students with disabilities in gaining opportunities for full participation in programs, services and activities. The Disability Services Coordinator is the Director of Student Services 830-758-5006 in Eagle Pass, Texas.

Blackboard

This course requires numerous written assignments, all of which *must* be submitted to Blackboard by the published deadline. Please be prepared for electronic failures, last minute issues etc. These are *not* acceptable excuses for missing a deadline.

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Assignments

Weekly Discussions: Each week you will bring one discussion question for class. These discussion questions will need to be more than a yes or no, or basic plot points, but instead should spark in-class discussions. Discussion questions should be accompanied by a relevant quote from the text. You do not need to answer the question, that is for your classmates to do.

Analysis Essays: Every couple of weeks you will be expected to take a number of texts and examine them for a theme. You may choose the theme (examples include: love, death, war, etc.) and compare and contrast how the theme is used in each text. There is one essay for picturebook (and comics) analysis, and another for fiction.

Final Essay: Choose a text that influenced you as a child or adolescent. Re-read that text with the skills you have learned in this course. Identify genre, era, purpose, and literary themes. Critically analyze the text as an academic, and as an older version of the person who was originally influenced. Answer the following questions: What did the text mean to you? Why? How did the text accomplish that? How does the text fit into the genealogy of C/YA that we have studied? Are there clear pedagogical aims in the text? If so, describe them. If not, what might some pedagogical aims be? Is there an underlying argument to the text? Were you aware of these aims and arguments the first time you read it?

Final Exam: This will be cumulative and will consist of short answer questions, multiple choice, and short essay answers. The *only* way to prepare for this is to have done all the reading!

Schedule (Subject to change!)

Week 1: 1/15 Introduction to course and Children's/ Adolescent's literature

Begin *Black Beauty*

Discussion on the genre C/A.

Week 2: 1/22 History of C/A literature

Finish *Black Beauty*

Discussion on the history of C/A literature. Group reading.

Week 3: 1/29 Mimetic Adolescent literature

Read *Little Town on the Prairie* and have a question for it.

Discussion on adventure tales, realistic C/A literature.

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Week 4: 2/5 Diverse Picturebooks

Read *My Side of the Mountain* and have a question for it.

Discussion on diversity in C literature.

Week 5: 2/12 International C/A literature

Read *The Last Stop on Market Street*, *The Snowy Day*, *Julian is a Mermaid* and have a question for them.

Discussion on international C/A literature.

Week 6: 2/19 Difficult Topics in C/A Literature

Read *Who Will Comfort Toffle?*, *The Arrival* and have a question for them.

Discussion on the place of topics like the holocaust and refugee crises in C/A literature.

Week 7: 2/26 Fantasy Literature

Picture Book Analysis Due

Read *Maus I* and have a question for it.

Discussion on the history of fantasy in C/A literature.

Week 8: 3/4

Read *Charmed Life* and have a question for it.

Spring Break

Reading Week 3/18

Catch Up! Work ahead.

Week 9: 3/25 Historical Fiction

Read *The Midwife's Apprentice* and have a question for it.

Discussion on the teaching of history through C/A literature.

Week 10: 4/1 Popular Fiction

Literary Analysis Due

Discussion on the phenomena of C/A literature's increasing popularity.

Week 11: 4/8 Horror/ The Gothic in C/A

Read *The Graveyard Book* and have a question for it.

Discussion on "fright" in C/A literature.

Week 12: 4/15 Diverse Literature for Adolescents

Read *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter* and have a question for it.

Discussion on the diversity, or not, of A literature.

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Week 13: 4/22 Award Winning C/A Literature

Read *The View From Saturday* and be prepared for a quiz or writing.
Discussion on the Newbery and Caldecott Awards.

Week 14: 4/29 New Technologies in Literature for Children

Final Essay Due

Turn in Final Essay, Review for Final Exam

Week 15: 5/6

Final Exam