

Sul Ross State University

Department of Languages and Literature

ENG/ENGL 3311: Children and Adolescent Literature (Online, Condensed 5-Week Format)

Instructor: Dr. Diana Rodriguez

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Office Hours: T/TR 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. via Teams

Semester: Summer 2026

Credits: 3

Course Description

English 3311 is a course that explores the foundations of children and adolescent literature through close study of its historical development as a tradition in English-language literatures. Children and adolescent literature has evolved as an important genre today, one that enjoys a rich history and currency, and backed up by various awards and sub-genres. In this course, we will read and discuss examples of award-winning pieces, as well as known canonical examples. We will produce analytic and researched writings which will help us to further our understanding of this literature as a tool toward developing an understanding of our world-views. For those of us preparing to teach, this course will serve as a preparation toward using this literature in your own classrooms and in your pedagogies. This course is aligned with the Texas TExES competencies for English Language Arts and Reading for grades 7-12 and EC-6.

Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs)

1. **SLO 1:** Students will be able to construct documents that demonstrate unity, organization, coherence, and development, and are grammatically correct.
 - o TExES 7-12 Competency: Oral and Written Communication (Domain III)
 - o TExES EC-6 Competency: Development of Written Communication (Standard VIII)
2. **SLO 2:** Students will be able to analyze and interpret literary works by applying principles of critical thinking, literary criticism, or theoretical engagement.
 - o TExES 7-12 Competency: Text Comprehension and Analysis (Domain II)
 - o TExES EC-6 Competency: Reading Comprehension (Standard VII)
3. **SLO 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.
 - o TExES 7-12 Competency: Inquiry and Research (Competency 007)
 - o TExES EC-6 Competency: Research and Inquiry Skills (Standard XI)

Marketable Skills

1. Students will communicate effectively in writing and speaking.
2. Students will use different research strategies to address problems and develop ideas that engage a variety of perspectives.
3. Students will recognize how social and cultural contexts shape meaning and language

Required Text

- *Through the Eyes of a Child: An Introduction to Children's Literature* (8th Edition)

- Blackboard for course materials and assignments

TEExES Competency Alignment

- This course aligns with the following TEExES standards: Competencies 003, 004, 005, 006, 007, 009, 010, and 011.

Course Components & Grading

- **Discussion Boards (DBs):** 13 Discussion Board posts with peer reviews (31.7%); 125 points
- **Weekly Quizzes:** 11 Chapter quizzes (27.9%); 110 points
- **Final Project (max 5 pages):** (40.5%); 160 points

Course Calendar & Weekly Schedule- *Please follow the Modules in Blackboard for each week.*

Week 1: Foundations, History, and Literary Evaluation

Readings: Chapters 1, 2, 3

Topics: Child response, historical influences, evaluation criteria

Assignments: Intro Discussion Board (DB), DB1 (Cognitive Analysis), DB2 (Historical Impact), DB 3 (Comprehensive Analysis of Literary Elements)

Chapter 1 Quiz, Chapter 2 Quiz, Chapter 3 Quiz

Week 2: Visual Analysis, Picture Books, Traditional Literature

Readings: Chapters 4, 5, 6

Topics: Viewer's response, picture book types, folktales & fables

Assignments: DB4 (Illustration Analysis), DB5 (Book Critique), DB 6 Original Traditional Tale

Chapter 4 Quiz, Chapter 5 Quiz, Chapter 6 Quiz

Week 3: Modern Fantasy, Poetry, Realism

Readings: Chapters 7, 8, 9

Topics: Fantasy elements, poetic forms, realistic fiction

Assignments: DB7 (Fantasy/Poetry Creation), DB8 (Poetry), DB 9 (Genre Evaluation- Realistic Fiction),

Chapter 7 Quiz, Chapter 8 Quiz, Chapter 9 Quiz

Week 4: Historical Fiction, Biographies, Informational Texts

Readings: Chapters 10, 11, 12

Topics: Nonfiction genres, historical context, visual literacy in facts

Assignments: DB10 (Historical Text), DB11 (Biography Critique), DB 12 (Evaluating Informational Text)

Chapter 10 Quiz, No Chapter 11 Quiz, Chapter 12 Quiz

Week 5: Final Project

Choose One:

- **Formal Essay** (3–5 pages)
- **Visual Presentation** (6–10 slides)
- **Video/Audio Commentary** (upload file or link to YouTube, Vimeo, etc.)
- **Lesson Plan + Written Analysis**

Your final project must include all of the following components:

1. **Book Selection and Justification**
2. **Literary Analysis** (using literary elements and evaluation criteria)
3. **Reflection and Rationale**

Be sure your work is clear, polished, and demonstrates depth of thought.

Course Policies and Expectations

- **Late Work:** 10% deduction per day, maximum 1 week late.
- **Attendance:** Students are to make themselves aware of the SRSU policies on Absences and Class Attendance posted in the SRSU Student Handbook. Make-up work is at the discretion of the instructor as it relates to “explained and excused” absences. The Absences/Class Attendance policy includes all absences excused or unexcused. In this course you are expected to attend all classes (as scheduled electronically on Blackboard), to be punctual, and to complete all assignments on time.
- **Academic Integrity:** Students must adhere to Sul Ross’s Academic Honesty policy. Students in this class are expected to demonstrate scholarly behavior and academic honesty in the use of intellectual property. A scholar is expected to be punctual, prepared, and focused. Examples of academic dishonesty include but not limited to: Turning in work as original that was used in whole or part of another course and/or professor; turning in another person’s work as one’s own; copying from professional works or internet sites or generative A.I. without citation.
- **Prohibited Uses of A.I.:** 1. Using AI tools to generate answers for quizzes, exams, or other assessments is strictly prohibited. This includes using AI to write essays, solve problems, or complete assignments without proper attribution. 2. Presenting AI-generated content as one's own work without proper attribution is considered plagiarism. Students must clearly distinguish between their own work and any AI-generated assistance. 3. AI tools should not be used to engage in unethical or inappropriate behavior, such as generating harmful, offensive, or misleading content.
- **Consequences of Violations:** Violations of this policy will be treated as breaches of academic integrity and may result in disciplinary action, including but not limited to: · A failing grade on the assignment · A failing grade for the course · Referral to the institution's academic integrity board
- **Best Practices for Using AI Tools** 1. Always disclose the use of AI tools when submitting assignments or participating in discussions. 2. Evaluate AI-generated content critically and ensure that it aligns with course objectives and academic standards. 3. Use AI as a supplementary tool rather than a replacement for original analysis and creative thinking.
- **Seeking Guidance:** If you are uncertain about the appropriate use of AI tools in a specific context, please consult with the instructor before proceeding. The instructor of the course is available to clarify the policy and provide guidance on acceptable practices.
- **Communication:** Check Sul Ross email regularly.

University Programs and Services

Required Student Responsibilities Statement: All full-time and part-time students are responsible for familiarizing themselves with the Student Handbook and the Undergraduate & Graduate Catalog and for abiding by the University rules

and regulations. Additionally, students are responsible for checking their Sul Ross email as an official form of communication from the university. Every student is expected to obey all federal, state and local laws and is expected to familiarize themselves with the requirements of such laws.

Required for Remote/Online Courses. SRSU Distance Education Statement: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, such as library resources, online databases, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should correspond using Sul Ross email accounts and submit online assignments through Blackboard, which requires secure login. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website. Directions for filing a student complaint are located in the student handbook.

Required by American with Disabilities Act SRSU Disability Services: SRSU Accessibility Services. Sul Ross State University (SRSU) is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is SRSU policy to provide reasonable accommodations to students with documented disabilities. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request each semester for each class. Students seeking accessibility/accommodations services must contact SRSU's Accessibility Services Director at 432-837-8203. RGC students can also contact Alejandra Valdez, at 830-758-5006 or email alejandra.valdez@sulross.edu. Our office is located on the first floor of Ferguson Hall, room 112, and our mailing address is P.O. Box C122, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas, 79832.

Technical Support: The Support Desk is where you can direct your more technical questions. For example, the Support Desk can help you if you are having issues submitting a document, getting videos to play, or using Blackboard. The support desk is open 24 hours a day/7 day a week for your convenience. Blackboardsupport@sulross.edu or 888.837.6055.

Email, Blackboard, and Office 365/One Drive: You will want to check your Sul Ross e-mail regularly. It is an easy way for the instructor to stay in contact with you and for you to stay in contact with the instructor. The instructor will use Blackboard to send messages to the class, collect major assignments, provide students with access to class assignments, and post students' major grades. You need to be able to access both your SRSU e-mail, Blackboard, and Office 365/OneDrive accounts. If you need login help, please call 432-837-8888. Check your access early in the semester. The instructor recommends that you save your work on Office 365/OneDrive. This way you can access your work from any computer that has Internet access on or off campus.

Writing Support: The instructor recommends that you have a tutor review your work before you turn in the final drafts. As a Sul Ross student, you have several options for acquiring help: a) Tutoring is available in Lobo Den, which is located in the library. To find out tutor hours, you may call 432-837-8982. b) The Writing Center provides online tutoring support. You can access the Writing Center via Blackboard. Be sure to allow 48 hours turnaround time.

SRSU Library Services: The Sul Ross Library offers FREE resources and services to the entire SRSU community. Access and borrow books, articles, and more by visiting the library's website, library.sulross.edu. Off-campus access requires your LoboID and password. Check out materials using your photo ID. Librarians are a tremendous resource for your coursework and can be reached in person, by email (srsulibrary@sulross.edu), or phone (432-837-8123).

Amendments to this syllabus may be made at the discretion of the instructor at any time.