

Syllabus

EDCI 3000, version 1.2

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EDCI 3000—Children’s Literature

Course Description: Survey of children’s literature across time, genres and media; focus on wide reading in children’s literature and an appreciation of the value of literature for children.

Textbooks and Other Materials

ODL is *not* responsible for student purchases that result in *the receipt of the wrong materials*. It is the responsibility of the student to order the correct textbook materials. Courses are written to specific textbook editions; edition substitutions *are not allowed*.

Textbook

Donna E. Norton and Sandra Norton. *Through the Eyes of a Child: An Introduction to Children’s Literature*. Eighth edition. Boston: Pearson, 2011.

ISBN-10: 0-137-02875-X

ISBN-13: 978-0-1370-2875-7

Ordering Information

Please review the following tips for ordering your course materials:

1. Do not purchase your textbooks until your enrollment is approved. During the processing period, a new section may be opened that could require a different textbook or edition.
2. *Always order by the ISBN*. Publishers and vendors often offer the same textbook title under different ISBNs. You must have the correct ISBN to access your online website.
3. If you are having problems locating a textbook, contact us at Answers@outreach.lsu.edu for assistance.

Other Materials and Resources

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Students will need access to the children's section of a public, university, or school library to complete this course, in order to procure the trade books (children's picture books, novels, and informational books) that are required for each module.

Software: Web Browser, Adobe Acrobat Reader, MS Word

Students must use a recent version of MS Word to compose their answers to assignments in each module.

It is recommended that you use Mozilla Firefox or Google Chrome as your web browser. Internet Explorer is not compatible with your Moodle course site.

Adobe Acrobat Reader is required to view PDF document files.

Hardware: *Web cam with a microphone (built-in or external), headphones or working speakers, and high speed internet*

Proctored exams are completed online and require the hardware listed above. Students are encouraged to review the technical requirements provided on the ProctorU website and to perform a test on their equipment prior to enrolling in this course to make sure they have the necessary resources available. There is a separate charge for each proctored exam.

Technical Requirements: <http://www.proctoru.com/tech.php>

Equipment Test: <http://www.proctoru.com/testitout/>

Nature and Purpose of the Course

Course Outcomes: Upon completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the wide range of literature available for children
2. Demonstrate a clear understanding of the various genres of children's literature
3. Evaluate children's literature according to literary quality, text complexity, and suitability for use with children
4. Identify and evaluate the elements of fiction in children's books
5. Present literature in ways that foster children's aesthetic response
6. Distinguish the role of literature across the content areas
7. Analyze and critique various social issues as they pertain to children's literature, particularly issues of censorship and diversity

8. Identify and describe the works of outstanding authors and illustrators of children's literature
9. Evaluate representations of children's literature in media other than print
10. Use technology to enhance the study of literature

"A toddler's first response when introduced to the wonderful world of reading is typically an excited, 'Read it again!' A three-year-old carries a copy of Martin Waddell's *Can't You Sleep, Little Bear?* for a week, hugging it as tightly and lovingly as a stuffed bear. A seven-year-old closes the cover of Jessica Scott Kerrin's *Martin Bridge: In High Gear*, saying proudly, 'I read the whole book.' Five 10-year-olds joyfully page through Louis Sachar's *Holes* looking for clues and connections in the intertwining stories. A 12-year-old holds up a copy of Mildred Taylor's *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* and states emphatically, 'This is the best book I've ever read.' All of these children have had some deep and intensely personal response to a work of children's literature. Surely, it is such responses that may lead them to become lifelong lovers of literature."

-Kiefer, Barbara Z. *Charlotte Huck's Children's Literature: A Brief Guide*. Second edition. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2014, p. 2.

EDCI 3000 provides an introduction to the world of children's literature, emphasizing the role that the enjoyment of literature plays in promoting a love of reading and of learning. It deals with the selection, evaluation, and utilization of literary materials for children from preschool through middle school age.

ECDI 3000 is primarily a "survey" course rather than a "methods" course; as such, it provides a bridge between the academic concentration and professional education courses. Its content and focus form the foundation for methods courses in reading and language arts and provide background for the use of literature across various areas of the school curriculum.

While this course is particularly appropriate for students seeking to work with children in fields such as education and library science, it can be a rewarding and enjoyable study for students in any field.

Working with the Course Materials

Remember, this course covers an entire semester of work or the equivalent of a classroom course lasting 15 weeks. That means that each module in this course equals nearly a week of course work and will require the same time and effort on your part. *Do not expect to complete each module in a single study session. Understand, too, that if you choose to submit assignments at a very high pace, your instructor may not be able to grade your work at the same rate.*

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Each module contains information, activities, and assignments organized under a consistent series of headings. Get familiar with how the module is organized. Each module in this course is organized into the following sections: the Module Learning Objectives, the Reading Assignment, Supplemental Reading and Activities, and the graded Module Assignment. You should work through these parts of the module in order. Specific recommendations are provided in a link to the course module instructions, which you should review before beginning the first module.

Suggested Study Techniques

1. Carefully review the module objectives to help you focus on the information that will be covered on the exams.
2. Concentrate on the reading assignments, the module lecture material, and any additional resources provided. This review should include a detailed examination of any illustrative problems and examples. After an assignment has been completed, a rapid re-reading of the related text and other materials is strongly recommended.
3. Put yourself on a definite schedule. Set aside a certain block of hours per day or week for this course and work in a place where distractions are minimal.
4. Try to submit one assignment each week or at least every two weeks. Delays in submitting assignments usually result in lagging interest and the inability to complete the course.
5. Review your module assignments after they have been graded, paying special attention to any instructor feedback provided. (We suggest that you wait for assignment feedback before you submit subsequent assignments.)
6. Regardless of how you complete your graded assignments, keep in mind that module completion should not be your sole preparation for your exams. As with any college course, you should study for your exams.

Reading Assignments

To do well in this course, it is essential that you read and study all the course materials that precede the module assignment. A key component to studying children's literature will, of course, be reading widely from that literature, which includes picture books, novels, and informational books.

It is necessary that you have access to a public, university, or school library to complete the course successfully. Most modules have either specific books for you to read or a selected group of titles from which to choose to respond to questions within the module. You should use quality children's literature to gain the most from your study.

To be successful in this course, you will need to devote adequate time to completing the reading assignments and module assignments. If you rush through the readings and assignments, you will have a limited experience of children's literature. Instead, take time to reflect: What issues are being raised? What concerns or emotions have been aroused after reading a certain book? What things have you become more aware of after reading a text chapter? If you approach the modules as points to explore (rather than as lists of tasks to complete), you will better experience the joy and depth in children's literature.

You will read an average of 30 pages and 3 trade books per module. Specific reading assignments will be given in each module.

Topic Outline

This course covers the following specific topics:

Module	Topic
01	The Child Responds to Literature
02	The History of Children's Literature
03	Evaluating and Selecting Literature for Children
04	Children's Book Awards
05	Artists and Their Illustrations
06	Picture Books
	Mid-Course Examination
07	Traditional Literature
08	Modern Fantasy
09	Poetry
10	Contemporary Realistic Fiction

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- 11 Historical Fiction
- 12 Biographies
- 13 Informational Books

Final Examination

Module Assignments

Most module assignments in this course will be two-part assignments. Part I will consist of essay questions and Part II will be in quiz format. The essay portion is included in each module and will vary in length; however, on average you can expect to prepare 1-2 pages of text at minimum. It is important to answer *every* part of each essay/discussion question. Any parts left unanswered will result in a reduction in points awarded. The quiz portion may or may not be included in specific modules.

Carefully study the textbook chapter and assigned trade books for each module before you begin to prepare answers to the assignments. Modules incorporate responses to specific content in the textbook, trade books, book reviews, discussions of current issues, and applications of children's literature. A key component of some discussion questions will be a focus on your own thoughts about and reactions to the literature you have read. Please be reflective, thoughtful, and thorough in sharing these thoughts and reactions.

Please submit each assignment in the form of a MS Word document that includes a header on each page with your name, enrollment number, course name and number, and module number. Other specifications may be provided within each module.

Use the following naming convention for documents to be uploaded:

CourseNumber_Version_Section_LastName_FirstName_ModuleNumber

(Example: EDCI3000_1.2_1_jones_sam_M01)

In general, responses to essay/discussion questions should be double-spaced, with each being clearly labeled by question number, including any applicable sub-labels (1.a., 1.b., 1.c., etc.).

If full bibliographic information is requested in the module, you are expected to provide the author, title, copyright date, illustrator (where applicable), city of publication, and publishing company. Follow either MLA or APA formatting guidelines for constructing bibliographic entries. Style guides for MLA and APA

can be found in any library, and there are also many websites that offer formatting guidelines and assistance.

In the process of completing this course, you will no doubt explore other sources of information, including those on the web, some of which are quite useful. You also are encouraged to engage with your instructor through our Question & Answer Forum for each module in the course site.

In consulting outside sources, avoid cut-and-paste type work in your essays/discussion question responses. Your instructor is interested in your thoughts, views, and opinions; not those of some anonymous, uncredited source. Moreover, cut-and-paste jobs, including verbatim copying from the assigned readings in large, uncredited portions, is considered plagiarism and will be handled according to Louisiana State University's Policy. Any suspected plagiarism will be reported. (See Academic Integrity section of your syllabus)

You should submit each module assignment as soon as it is completed. Some courses have restrictions that require that a grade be received before you can submit additional assignments. Specific information on assignment submission is included in the Module Instructions. Please be sure to follow these instructions.

You must have a *grade posted in the Moodle grade book for the Module 13 Assignment in order to unlock access to the Final Exam*. Please allow at least seven days for the final assignment grade to be posted in the gradebook. Once you *submit* an assignment, you cannot revise it, so be sure to check your work. Your instructor will normally post a grade for your assignment within *seven calendar days*. Understand that occasional delays will occur, such as during holidays and semester breaks or if you submit several module assignments within the same week. You must have been enrolled in the course for *at least three weeks*, regardless of when the modules and other exams are completed.

Do not rely too heavily on your textbook or other resource material when preparing your assignments. If you do, you may not realize until exam time that the perfect response you prepared for an assignment was only possible because you referred to resource material without really learning or understanding the material and concepts. Therefore, *you should attempt each assignment without referring to the resource material*, and if you find it necessary to look up an answer, be sure you have actually learned the concept and material rather than merely reflecting it in the answer.

Academic Integrity

Students in Online Distance Learning (ODL) courses must comply with the *LSU Code of Student Conduct*. Suspected violations of the academic integrity policy may be referred to LSU Student Advocacy & Accountability (SAA), a unit of the Dean of Students. If found responsible of a violation, you will then be subject to whatever penalty SAA determines and will forfeit all course tuition and fees.

Plagiarism

Students are responsible for completing and submitting their own course work and preparing their own modules. All work submitted in the course modules must be the student's own work unless outside work is appropriate to the assignment; all outside material must be properly acknowledged. It is also unacceptable to copy directly from your textbook or to use published answer keys or the teacher's edition of a textbook.

Collaboration

Unauthorized collaboration constitutes plagiarism. Collaborative efforts that extend beyond the limits approved by the instructor are violations of the academic integrity policy. Students who study together are expected to prepare and write their own individual work for submission and grading.

For more information and links to the *LSU Code of Student Conduct* and the SAA website, go to the [ODL Academic Integrity policy](#) on our website.

Examinations and Grading Policy

This course will include two exams—a mid-course and a final. The mid-course exam covers modules 01-06, and the final exam covers modules 07-13. Each exam will be similar in format to the modules, with essay, multiple-choice, and matching questions. Objective questions will reflect the material covered within the modules, while essay questions will ask that you synthesize and apply what you have learned in the modules. No dictionaries, books, or aids are allowed during the exam.

You will have a maximum of *three* hours to complete the exam.

- Module assignments count 100 points each.
- Exams are 100 points each.
- Course grade = average of module assignments + exam scores. Each component is weighted by the following predetermined percentages:

Course grade =

Component	Weight (%)
Average of Module Assignments	40%
Mid-Course Exam	30%
Final Exam	30%

The following grading scale applies:

97%–100%	= A+
93%–96%	= A
90%–92%	= A-
87%–89%	= B+
83%–86%	= B
80%–82%	= B-
77%–79%	= C+
73%–76%	= C
70%–72%	= C-
67%–69%	= D+
63%–66%	= D
60%–62%	= D-
0%–59%	= F

**YOU MUST EARN A PASSING AVERAGE ON THE
EXAMINATIONS IN ORDER TO PASS THE COURSE**

IMPORTANT: The final exam cannot be taken until you meet the following requirements. Under no circumstances may the final exam be taken earlier.

1. You must have been enrolled in the course for *at least three weeks*, regardless of when the modules and other exams are completed.
2. You must have a grade posted in the Moodle grade book for the Module 13 Assignment in order to unlock access to the Final Exam. Please allow at least seven days for the final assignment grade to be posted in the gradebook.

To read the full exam policy and other policy statements, visit <http://www.outreach.lsu.edu/Extended-Campus/Online-Distance-Learning/Guidelines-Policies/Policies>. Go to Continuing Education's homepage. Click on *Extended Campus*, select *Online Distance Learning*, and then click the link for *Guidelines and Policies*.

Taking Your Examinations

You are *required* to create a Louisiana State University ODL ProctorU account and to take your examinations through ProctorU, a remote proctoring service that allows you to take exams anywhere with internet access (some restrictions apply). Information on creating your ProctorU account can be found in the *Getting Started* module. You cannot use an account created through another university, so if you already have an account, you will still need to create an account associated with LSU Online Distance Learning (ODL).

The ProctorU website provides links you can use to find out how ProctorU works and to check your computer to see that it meets the technical requirements. In addition, to test using ProctorU, you need *access to a web cam with a microphone (built-in or external), headphones or working speakers, and high speed internet* to use this service. A complete list of technical requirements is available from the ProctorU website.

You should schedule your exams about a week before you are ready to take them in order to avoid any additional charges.

Transcript Information

After you have completed this course, your grade will be filed with the Office of the University Registrar. If a transcript is needed, it is your responsibility to make a request to the registrar. If you would like to order a transcript, visit the Office of the University Registrar Transcript Requests page to view your options (<http://sites01.lsu.edu/wp/registraroffice/student-services/transcript-request/>).

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