

**VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY  
MASTER OF LIBRARY & INFORMATION SCIENCE  
MLIS 7420 Literature for Youth—Syllabus  
Spring Semester 2009  
Three Hours Credit**

**INSTRUCTOR**

Sarah McGhee, MLIS  
Assistant Director of Public Services  
Chestatee Regional Library System  
1573 Chester Road  
Dahlonega, GA 30533  
Office hours by appointment, on the phone or online.

Cell: 404-731-4565  
Email: [smcghee0925@gmail.com](mailto:smcghee0925@gmail.com)

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A survey of books and related materials for use with students and library patrons aged pre-kindergarten through grade 12.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

At the conclusion of the course, the student will be:

1. Conversant with numerous categories, authors, and specific titles in youth literature.
2. Experienced with presenting literature to groups of youth.
3. Familiar with youth literature awards and review sources.
4. Able to recommend appropriate literature to young people of diverse ages, racial and ethnic backgrounds, and reading needs.

**COURSE PREREQUISITE OR COREQUISITE** None.

**REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS**

McCracken, Elaine M., et al. *Children's and Youth Services Staff Handbook*. Atlanta: Georgia Public Library Service, 2002. Available only online:  
<http://www.georgialibraries.org/lib/child/childmanual.pdf>

Literature Reading List: see below.

Additional Reading Assignments will be posted in WebCT Vista.

**REQUIRED ACTIVITIES**

Literature Modules	60%
Discussion Postings	10%
Story Time	15%
Book Talk	15%

**GRADING**

Each assignment must be organized; utilize correct grammar, spelling and punctuation; and show evidence of quality time spent in preparation.

## **General Grading Scale**

- A** excellent work - among the best work seen at the graduate level
- B** satisfactory work - better than average work at the graduate level
- C** honest attempt - needs moderate to major revisions to be satisfactory
- D** perfunctory or missing work

**Late** work is dropped one letter grade

## **Final Grading Scale**

- A** - always satisfactory, often excellent
- B** - mostly satisfactory, occasionally excellent
- C** - sometimes satisfactory, often needs revisions
- D** - rarely satisfactory, often perfunctory, late or missing
- F** - lacking even an attempt to learn or do, dishonesty, plagiarism

## **ATTENDANCE**

The bulk of the course work occurs in asynchronous mode via WebCT Vista.

## **CALENDAR**

January 12	Class begins
January 21, 11 pm	“Getting Started” posts due
January 28, 11 pm	Module 1 due; Pick of Module 1 due
February 25, 11 pm	Module 2 due; Pick of Module 2 due
March 25, 11 pm	Module 3 due; Pick of Module 3 due
April 29, 11 pm	Module 4 due; Pick of Module 4 due Story Time due; Book Talk due

## **COMMUNICATION**

We will use WebCT Vista as our primary communication tool. You should be able to access the class in Vista beginning on January 12.

For help with **WebCT Vista**:

- Visit <http://www.valdosta.edu/vista/>. Read carefully. Scroll down and read entire screens. Notice “Self-Help” on the right.
- If this doesn’t solve the problem, visit <http://www.valdosta.edu/vista/webct/techform.html>  
This site includes an online submittal form and the phone number for VSU’s IT Helpdesk, 229-245-4357. To see Helpdesk hours: visit <http://www.valdosta.edu/helpdesk/> (see on the left, scroll down).

## **ACADEMIC DISHONESTY**

“Valdosta State University expects that graduate students will pursue their academic endeavors and conduct themselves in a professional and ethical manner. All work that a student presents to satisfy course requirements should represent his or her own efforts, including appropriate use and acknowledgement of external sources. Specific regulations

related to student conduct and behavior are contained in the *Student Handbook*, *Student Code of Ethics*.

## **SPECIAL NEEDS STATEMENT**

Valdosta State University is an equal opportunity educational institution. It is not the intent of our institution to discriminate against any applicant for admission or any student or employee of the institution based on the sex, race, religion, color, national origin or handicap of the individual. It is the intent of the institution to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and subsequent executive orders as well as the Title IX section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973. Students requesting accommodations or modifications because of a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in room 1115 Nevens Hall. The phone numbers are 229/245-2498 (voice) and 229/219-1348 (tty).

## **ASSIGNMENTS**

**Literature Modules** *See page 5*

### **Discussion Assignments - Due on Wednesdays by 11:00 p.m.**

These will be posted in appropriate topics on the Discussion Board within WebCT Vista.

- “Getting Started” activities, see below.
- Four of them will be your “Pick of the Module,” one item from each literature module that you most want to share and discuss with classmates.
- Two other discussion assignments will be review sources and assessing reading levels.
- **“Getting Started”** has four things to do. **Numbers 1 and 2 are due on Wednesday, January 21.**
  1. In WebCT Vista, look on the Discussion Board for “Meet the Class.” Open the post and follow the directions. You will introduce yourself to the class. Include:
    - where you live
    - your current job if any
    - what you hope to do after you finish school
    - if you wish, something you did over the holiday break.
    - If you have a digital photo you’re willing to share, send it as an attachment to your post.
  2. Using WebCT Vista mail, send me a mail message. Let me know these things:
    - What made you decide to take this course?
    - What you hope to get out of it?
  3. In the text, read the “Child Development” section
  4. Begin work on the other assignments, particularly the literature modules.
- **Story Time, due April 29.**  
You will share a complete book or books of with a group of children of pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, or elementary school age. The group must number at

least 5. Your own children or other relatives may be included, provided that children from outside your family outnumber your family members. Choose literature that is age-appropriate. Accompanying activities may include songs, movement activities, or arts activities. Record this information:

- brief description of the group
- date and location of the story time
- author
- title
- publisher
- publication date
- visual aids used
- accompanying activities, if any;
- What worked well?
- What will you change next time?

You will post a brief report, based on these bullets, in the appropriate topic on the Discussion Board within WebCT Vista.

▪ **Book Talk, due April 29.**

You will introduce a book or books to a group of youth of middle school or high school age. The objective is to inspire your listeners to read the book or books themselves. The group must number at least 5. Your own children or other relatives may be included, provided that children from outside your family outnumber your family members. Choose literature that is age-appropriate. You may choose to use several books on the same topic or theme. Record this information:

- brief description of the group
- date and location of the book talk
- author
- title
- publisher
- publication date
- visual aids used
- accompanying activities, if any;
- What worked well?
- What will you change next time?

You will post a brief report, based on these bullets, in the appropriate topic on the Discussion Board within WebCT Vista.

*Please note:* the Book Talk and Story Time due dates are toward the end of the semester so that you have maximum flexibility in scheduling them. You are *welcome* and *encouraged* to do them much sooner. There are many things happening on April 29; if you want to get some of them done well ahead of time, go for it!

## **LITERATURE MODULES**

**Due dates will be Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m.**

For each title, record this information:

- Author

- Title
- Place of Publication
- Publisher
- Date of Publication
- Brief Description It is important that this is your original work. Be verifying off common websites...NOTE: I will know if you copy this from amazon!
- Recommended Grade or Age Level
- Suggested Uses

As an option, also record other information that you expect to find helpful. Accelerated Reader level might be one example.

You may record this information in whatever manner you wish, provided that it can be transmitted electronically. Word processing documents, data base documents, and Web pages have been used in the past.

One reason we are recording this information: if your principal or director ever walks in and says, "You can have more money if you can get it spent by Friday," I want you to have a "wish list" ready to use. Keeping this in mind may help you decide what information to record and what format to use.

For Recommended Grade or Age Level: Grade or Age Level often appears on the item, in a review. You can also sometimes find suggested grade or age levels via online booksellers. To calculate this yourself, use Fry's Readability Graph: <http://school.discovery.com/schrockguide/fry/fry.html>. You may also consult the Lexile Book Search: <http://www.lexile.com/DesktopDefault.aspx?view=ed&tabindex=5&tabid=67&tabpageid=313>. NOTE: Login is required. Registration is free. NovelList K-8, available via GALILEO, also includes Lexile levels when available.

Under Suggested Uses, you might also record "non-uses," students or situations for which the title would be particularly *in*appropriate.

**In general, "double dipping" is not allowed, which means that the same item can't count for more than one category. An exception to this is that in the *Videos/CDs/Websites* category, titles may duplicate but may not replace titles in other categories. You may also "double dip" for the Literature Comparison assignment; see above.**

"Talking book" versions of the titles are fine, provided that they are unabridged.

#### **Award Lists:**

Links to the most current awards lists are provided in the syllabus. For award book requirements, titles that received "Honorable Mention" recognition may be used.

The literature titles are arranged in four modules:

**Module 1, due Wednesday, January 28:**

Series books - One from each of:

- Lemony Snicket
- Junie B. Jones by Barbara Park
- Magic Treehouse by Mary Pope Osborne
- Time Warp Trio by Jon Scieszka
- a series book by Matt Christopher
- a series book by R. L. Stein, for a total of 6 books.

The Lemony Snicket *must* be one of the original series books, and *not* one that is labeled "Movie Tie-in."

Graphic novels

- Three from YALSAs list of "Great Graphic Novels for Teens", available online at <http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/greatgraphicnovelsforteens/gn.cfm> for a total of 3 books.

**Module 2, due February 25:**

6 Caldecott Award Books

(<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/caldecottmedal/caldecotthonors/caldecottmedal.cfm>)

- 2 published 1938-65
- 2 published 1966-96
- 2 published 1997-present

6 Newbery Award Books

(<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/newberymedal/newberyhonors/newberymedal.cfm> )

- 2 published 1955-75
- 2 published 1976-96
- 2 published 1997-present.

4 Georgia Children's Book Awards winners (<http://www.coe.uqa.edu/qcba/> )

- 2 from the Picture Story Book award
- 2 from the Children's Book award

8 Picture Books:

- Blake, *Togo*
- Wilson, *A Frog in a Bog*
- Banyai, *Zoom*
- Martin, *Chicka Chicka Boom Boom*
- Brown, *Goodnight Moon*
- any picture book by Chris Van Allsburg
- any picture book by Rosemary Wells
- any picture book illustrated by Eric Carle

**Module 3, due Wednesday, March 25:**

**Fantasy/Science Fiction**

- Lowry, *The Giver*
- White, *Charlotte's Web*

- Any Harry Potter book
- Funke, *Inkheart, Inkspell, Inkdeath, or Dragon Rider*
- Cooper, *The Dark is Rising*
- Sage, any book from the *Septimus Heap* series, for a total of 6 books.

#### **Realistic Fiction**

- Cleary, *Ramona Quimby Age 8*
- Cormier, *The Chocolate War*
- Laurie Halse Anderson, *Speak*
- Cynthia Rylant, *Missing May*
- Dicamillo, *Because of Winn-Dixie*
- Patricia Reilly Giff, *Pictures of Hollis Woods*
- any chapter book by Judy Blume, for a total of 7 books.

#### **Historical Fiction**

Hesse, *Out of the Dust*  
Lowry, *Number the Stars*  
Watkins, *So Far From the Bamboo Grove*, for a total of 3 books.

#### **Young Adult Award Books**

- 2 books by 2 different authors who have won the Margaret A. Edwards Award (<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/margaretaedwards/margaretedwards.cfm>)
- 2 titles that are winners or honor books of the Michael L. Printz Award (<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/printzaward/Printz.cfm>)
- 2 winners of the Alex Award (<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/yalsa/booklistsawards/alexawards/alexawards.cfm>)
- 2 winners or honor books from the Georgia Peach Book Award for Teen Readers (<http://glma-inc.org/peachaward.htm>) for a total of 8 books.

#### **Poetry:**

*Where the Sidewalk Ends* by Shel Silverstein; 1 book.

#### **Module 4, due April 29:**

##### **Multicultural books:**

- Two books by two different authors from the Coretta Scott King Awards (<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/rts/emiert/corettascottkingbookaward/cskwinner/cskpastwinners/chronologicallist/cskchronological.cfm>)
- two books by two different authors from the Pura Belpre Awards (<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/belpremedal/belprepast/index.cfm>)
- Two books by two different authors about Asian-American youth
- Two books by two different authors about Native American youth
- One book about Christmas
- One book about a December holiday other than Christmas, for a total of 10 books.

**Translations:**

2 winners of the Mildred L. Batchelder Award, for a total of 2 books.

(<http://www.ala.org/ala/mgrps/divs/alsc/awardsgrants/bookmedia/batchelderaward/index.cfm>)

**DVDs/CDs/Websites:**

Ten titles. Include:

A Harry Potter movie

An educational CD-rom

Galileo Kids Page at <http://kids.galileo.usg.edu>

A title of your choice from the International Children's Digital Library at

<http://en.childrenslibrary.org/>

PBS Kids at <http://pbskids.org/>

5 others of your choice

Titles in this category may duplicate but may not replace titles in other categories.

**Finding Materials** for the Literature Modules:

**Odum Library at VSU:** <http://books.valdosta.edu/>. Click on "Books and More" to search the catalog. If VSU does not own the title, use GIL Express or Interlibrary Loan. If you are taking all your classes online/off-campus and live outside Lowndes County, materials can be mailed to you; consult the Distance Ed page at <http://books.valdosta.edu/dist/dstudents.html>.

**Other libraries near your home:** public, school, other universities. You can get walk-in circulation service and access to GIL Express from any USG library.

**Bookstores:** some of them let you sit and read for free ☺.

**If you make a good faith effort** and cannot find a required title, let me know via WebCT Vista E-mail.