Syllabus

Department:

Library Science

Course Description:

This course is designed to introduce students to the field of children's literature. The course will cover the theories, history, and types of children's literature. Emphasis will be on giving students the ability to evaluate and select appropriate literature for various ages of children. The course is recommended for elementary education and library science majors and at some institutions is a requirement for those majors. Course material, however, will be broad enough to accommodate anyone with an interest in the field of children's literature.

Course Competencies:

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Explain the value of literature to educate and entertain children.
2. Define children's literature and explain its purpose and scope.
3. State the personal and educational value of literature in children's lives.
4. Identify and explain the elements of children's literature, including plot, setting, theme, characterization, style, point of view, illustration, and format.
5. Critically evaluate children's books in terms of their literary elements.
6. Explain the importance of evaluation guidelines in selecting books for children.
7. Explain the principles of selection, including who selects, quality, content, children's needs and interests, curriculum needs, and collection balance.
8. Distinguish between legitimate selection principles and censorship.
9. List the determinants of children’s reading interests and preferences.
10. Explain how children’s physical, cognitive, language, moral, and personality development influence their response to literature.
11. Explain how the oral tradition common to all literature is the source of children's literature.
12. Trace in general terms the development of literature specifically for children from the 17th Century to the present.
13. Define the concept of initial literacy.
14. Explain the characteristics of beginning books, picture storybooks, traditional literature, fantasy, poetry, realistic fiction, and historical fiction.
15. Use software programs to write and revise papers that meet page format and source documentation required by the instructor.

Course Content:

A. Knowing Children's Literature
B. Understanding Children's Responses to Literature

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C. Changing World of Children's Books and Multicultural Literature  
D. Books to Begin On  
E. Picture Books  
F. Traditional Literature  
G. Modern Fantasy  
H. Poetry  
I. Contemporary Realism  
J. Historical Fiction and Biography  
K. Nonfiction  
L. Planning A Literature Program

**Learning Assessments:**

Course competencies will be assessed by the use of unit exams, unit projects, quizzes, papers, in-class assignments and presentations, midterm exam, final project, and final exam.

**Instructional Materials:**

ISBN: 0073378569

**Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition**

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

In order to begin the process all students must complete the “Disabilities Self-Identification Form” at this link:  
https://highlandcc.edu/pages/disability-services.

This form can also be accessed at the Highland Community College homepage under Students Services/Student Resources/Disability Service or by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator.