



Valdosta State University
Master of Library and Information Science Program
Summer 2014
(MayMester: May 14th – June 5th)

Syllabus: MLIS 7421 Multicultural Youth Literature

Instructor:

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Virtual Office Hours/at your convenience

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to survey a wide variety of multicultural literature for children and young adults. Emphasis will be placed on enhancing librarians' and teachers' abilities to locate, evaluate, select, and incorporate unbiased and age-appropriate multicultural literature in order to provide students with the opportunity to make important connections across and within cultural groups.

Course Objectives:

At the end of this course, students will:

- be familiar with a variety of multicultural literature for children and young adults;
- be familiar with various authors and illustrators of multicultural youth literature;
- be familiar with the historical context and current issues relating to multicultural youth literature;
- understand how to evaluate and select multicultural youth literature for school and library use;
- be familiar with the major awards for multicultural youth literature;
- be familiar with professional literature, including selections aids, concerning multicultural youth literature;
- be familiar with strategies for incorporating multicultural literature into the curriculum and/or collection.

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS

Text:

Norton, Donna E. (2013). *Multicultural Children's Literature: Through the Eyes of Many Children (4th Edition)* Prentice Hall. ISBN-10: 0132685760, ISBN-13: 9780132685764.

Additional Readings:

You will be reading a wide variety of multicultural youth titles, including picture books, in this course. It is recommended that you obtain or confirm access to a children's or youth collection through your university library children's collection, local public or school library, or interlibrary loan services in order to meet the reading requirements of this course.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

This is a web-delivered course, with no required face-to-face meetings and no required synchronous online meeting times. Detailed instructions for all course requirements will be provided on the BlazeView course site.

- **Discussion Boards** (6 postings @ 10 points each, 6 peer responses @ 5 points each, 90 total points, 25% of grade): Question and article responses and peer comments posted weekly to course discussion boards, constituting class participation. **Due as assigned.**
- **Activity Quick-Writes** (25 points each, 75 total points, 20% of grade): 1-2 page quick-writes summarizing and reflecting on assigned activities. **Due as assigned.**
- **Reading Log** (5 points each, 175 total points, 30% of grade): Briefly annotated bibliography of multicultural youth titles read, relating to chapter topics. In conjunction with textbook reading, these readings are the most important component of the course. **Due at mid-point (May 26th) and end of course (June 4th).**
- **Final Project** (100 points, 25% of grade): Selection and evaluation of multicultural literature for a curricular connection, themed collection, and/or student-selected topic. These bibliographies will be shared with the entire class. **Due June 4th.**

All assignments are described more fully and additional guidance, including suggested titles for literature reading, are provided on the BlazeView course site and on the course calendar. I reserve the right to make reasonable modifications to the assignments and course schedule, but will not do so without notifying you.

A = excellent work that indicates a thorough understanding and superior application of the material, evidenced in original ways beyond minimum course expectations. 90-100%.

B = satisfactory work indicating a thorough investigation of ideas and concepts central to course material, consistently well prepared. 80-89%.

C = sometimes satisfactory, demonstrating a basic understanding but revealing marginal preparation, resulting in superficial responses and minimum performance. 70-79%.

COURSE POLICIES

General Assumptions: Excluding the face to face weekend content, the course is designed for the online learning environment and all course activities will take place inside the course website in BlazeView or on your own in the environment indicated in the assignment descriptions. Distance learning support is available from VSU. Please see: <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/elearning/blazeview-d2l.php>

All required readings are summarized on the course calendar and listed in full on the reading list and in the weekly folders. All readings other than the textbook chapters are accessible through GALILEO or Valdosta State University's Odum Library online journal access or through public access websites or through Odum Library course e-reserves or will be provided inside the course website in pdf format.

Students are expected to be able to obtain materials from GALILEO and the Odum Library's electronic collections and resources or their equivalents as part of their successful participation in this course. An online services guide for distance education students is on the Odum Library web site at <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/library/services/distance-education.php> Students should feel free to ask a local librarian for help learning to navigate GALILEO.

Attendance: Course content is delivered asynchronously according to the course calendar. It is the student's responsibility to follow the course calendar and participate via BlazeView as indicated at the appropriate times. It is in the student's best interest to log into the BlazeView course delivery system daily to check for announcements and e-mail messages related to the course.

Communication: The course Faculty Office discussion board will be available for the duration of the semester. Please post course-related questions that may be relevant to your classmates on the discussion board. Please read the Faculty Office discussion board regularly. If you have a personal question please send it to the instructor via BlazeView course e-mail. If you would like to speak with the instructor by telephone please ask for an appointment via e-mail so a mutually appropriate time can be determined. If you are in Valdosta and would like to meet face to face please send a message via e-mail to arrange a time. If I am on campus and my office door is open please feel free to come in.

Submitting written assignments: All written work must be submitted as attachments to the relevant assignment dropbox in the BlazeView course website using Word or rtf formats (.doc, .docx, .rtf suffixes only). If you use any word processing program other than Microsoft Word, please save your document in Rich Text Format (rtf). All written work file names should begin with your last name and first initial and include the assignment name as the file name, for example: DrouillardC_tour.docx

The university's Information Technology department provides step-by-step guides on how to use VSU's e-mail system and other resources. The IT Help Desk is at <http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/it/its/css/helpdesk/> Their telephone hotline is 229-245-4357.

Late work: All course work is due inside BlazeView on the date and time indicated on the course calendar. Any exceptions without penalties must be negotiated in advance. Technological crises are not an acceptable excuse for submitting work late unless BlazeView is down at the time the work is due.

20% of the possible grade will be deducted from the student's score for every additional 24 hours or increment thereof that the work is late up until the day the BlazeView assignment submission window closes. The instructor WILL NOT accept work after the assignment submission window closes without prior consent.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Academic Honesty at Valdosta State University: "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 behaviors are contained in the Student Handbook, Student Code of Conduct." See also: <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/vp-office/academic-honesty-policies-and-procedures.php>

It is your responsibility to make sure you understand how to avoid breaches of academic integrity. If you are unsure about the parameters of an assignment, ask for clarification. If you need help with citations and research resources and techniques, the university provides extensive resources for students. For help please start at the Odum Library's "how to" page: <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/library/tutorials/citing-your-sources/welcome.php>

By taking this course, you agree that all required course work may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to TurnItIn or SafeAssign, a tool within BlazeVIEW. For more information on the use of TurnItIn or SafeAssign at VSU see <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/vp-office/turnitin-for-students.php> <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/vp-office/safeassign-for-students.php>

Accommodations statement: From VSU's Access Office: Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in Farber Hall. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871 (VP) and 229-219-1348 (TTY). For more information, please visit <http://www.valdosta.edu/student/disability/> or email: access@valdosta.edu.

If you have a documented disability please contact the Access Office. Once your request for accommodation is submitted please contact the instructor to discuss accommodations or modifications of course content and delivery.

Student Conduct: All interactions related to this class are to be conducted respectfully and professionally whether during face to face meetings, online interactions, small group work, e-mail or telephone communication according to the Student Code of Conduct as presented in the Valdosta State University Student Handbook, beginning on page 65: <http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-conduct->

[office/documents/student-handbook.pdf](#)

Student Success Center: <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/student-success-center/>
provides free tutoring and support for distance learning students at
<http://valdosta.askonline.net>

Student Agreement: Enrollment in this class signifies that you have agreed to abide by and adhere to the policies and regulations specified above. It is understood that the instructor may adapt or change this syllabus and the assignments contained within it according to circumstances that may arise during the course of the semester.