

Valdosta State University  
Master of Library and Information Science Program  
Spring 2011

## **Syllabus: MLIS 7420 Literature for Youth**

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### **Course Description**

A study of the materials created for children with emphasis on the process of evaluation in order to meet the educational, cultural, and recreational needs of children.

### **Course Objectives**

#### **Goal for Course:**

To become acquainted with a wide range of materials for children to meet their educational, cultural, emotional, and recreational needs, and with techniques for their use.

#### **Objectives:**

1. To acquire knowledge of the relationship between children's needs and interests, at various levels.
2. To develop general criteria for evaluating and selecting books and materials for children, and to apply such criteria to a wide range of books and materials, including electronic formats.
3. To become acquainted with the various genres in literature for children, including characteristics, special criteria, representative titles, and major authors in each by reading widely and critically.
4. To become acquainted with outstanding authors and illustrators for children and with their work, and to develop an understanding of their aims and methods.
5. To recognize the role of the adult in relation to children and their materials, and to learn techniques for introducing children to literature and for evaluating and encouraging their response to books and materials.

6. To become acquainted with current issues and trends in the field of literature and materials for children.
7. To briefly survey the history of children's literature, and contemporary literature for children.
8. To become aware of major professional publications and sources of information that can help the adult who is using books and materials with children.
9. To become acquainted with a variety of online resources for children's materials, including online discussion groups, electronic Magazines, online books, and gopher and World Wide Web sites for accessing current information about awards, authors, illustrators, as well as lesson plans and bibliographies.
10. To acquire knowledge of the issues surrounding the representation of the different cultural groups in the United States in materials meant for children and how to evaluate, select, and employ multicultural materials when designing information programs and services.

## Course format

All course meetings and activities will be conducted through BlazeView, Valdosta State University's electronic course management system.

## Required course text and resources

Lynch-Brown, C., Tomlinson, C.M., Short, K.G. (2010). *Essentials of Children's Literature, 7th ed.* Boston, MA: Pearson Education, Inc.

You will be reading many children's books of different types and genres and keeping notes on your reading each week. You will also read selected articles and other pertinent materials that will be chosen by the instructor and identified in the weekly course folder as required readings.

In addition, students are required to identify books and other materials for children that reflect their own research interests in order to complete several assignments in this course.

## Assignments

Each assignment is worth the following points. Your final grade will be based on how the number points (out of 1000 possible) you earn over the course of the semester. Details for each assignment are available under the assignments tab of the course website.

Childhood and Society	5 points
Book Reviews (two reviews/5 points each)	10 points
Multicultural Books	10 points
Bibliography	30 points
Reading notes	30 points
Discussion Board Participation	15 points
<b>Total possible points</b>	<b>100 points</b>

## Course Grades

Students can earn a maximum of 1000 points in this course as indicated above. Course grades will be awarded as follows:

- A: 90 – 100 points
- B: 80 – 89 points
- C: 70 – 79 points
- D: 60 – 69 points
- F: fewer than 60 points.

## Course Policies

**General Assumptions:** This 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/vista/students.shtml>

Required readings are summarized on the course calendar and listed in full 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/library/services/distanceeducation.shtml> 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 me via BlazeView course e-mail or to my Valdosta State email address – [cldrouillard@valdosta.edu](mailto:cldrouillard@valdosta.edu) If you would like to speak with me by telephone please let me know via e-mail so we can arrange a good time for both of us to talk. If you are in Valdosta and would like to meet face to face please let me know so we can arrange a time. If I am on campus and my door is open please feel free to come in.

**Submitting written assignments:** All written work must be submitted as attachments to the assignment modules in the BlazeView course website using Word or rtf formats. 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 MUST 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/helpdesk/guides/> 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.

A grace period of 24 hours is offered without penalty. After 24 hours 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. If you need additional time to work on an assignment or if you have a scheduling conflict please contact your instructor BEFORE the assignment is due to discuss your situation. 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/academic/AcademicHonestyPoliciesandProcedures.shtml>

It is your responsibility to make sure you understand how to avoid breeches 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/library/learn/howto.shtml>

By taking this course, you agree that all required course work may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to SafeAssign, a tool within BlazeVIEW. For more information on the use of SafeAssign at VSU see [SafeAssign for Students \(http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/SafeAssignforStudents.shtml\)](http://www.valdosta.edu/academic/SafeAssignforStudents.shtml).

**Accommodations statement:** From VSU's Access Office: Students requesting classroom accommodations or modifications due to a documented disability must contact the Access Office for Students with Disabilities located in room 1115 Nevins Hall. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V/VP) and 229-219-1348 (TTY).

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 60: [http://www.valdosta.edu/studentaffairs/documents/Student\\_Handbook\\_2009-10v1.pdf](http://www.valdosta.edu/studentaffairs/documents/Student_Handbook_2009-10v1.pdf)

**Student Success Center:** <http://www.valdosta.edu/ssc/> 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.