ENG 221
INTRODUCTION TO CHILDREN’S LITERATURE
Winter 2007

INSTRUCTOR: Robin Havenick
OFFICE: NSH214
OFFICE HOURS: Mondays – Thursdays 12:00 – 1:00
TELEPHONE: 917-4574
E-MAIL: robin.havenick@linnbenton.edu
CRN: 32119
CLASS WEBSITE: http://cf.linnbenton.edu/artcom/english/havenir/web.cfm?pgID=35
TEXT WEBSITE: www.mhhe.com/childlit

Course Description: Welcome to all of you. This class is designed for you who have an interest in children’s literature. We will study the history, the artistry, and the various genres of Children’s Literature. Our focus will be on defining children’s literature, exploring the value of children’s literature, and finally evaluating this literature. Our main goal will be to understand and appreciate children’s literature as part of the mainstream of all great literature.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: When you successfully complete ENG221, you should be able to:
- Select, interpret, and evaluate Children’s Literature through critical reading.
- Recognize literature’s role in developing children’s language, literacy, and understanding of the human condition.
- Demonstrate how Children’s Literature enhances personal awareness and creativity.
- Write and speak confidently about your own and others’ ideas regarding Children’s Literature.
- Know your own best ways to nurture – in yourself and in children – a love of literature and a joy in reading.

A Note on Writing and Reading Skills: Succeeding in this class will require that you have college-level writing and reading skills (write at the WR121 level). If you have not yet taken WR121 (or aren’t taking it this term), please see me.

SKILLS: To reach our Learning Outcomes, you’ll need to master the following skills:
- Develop and use guidelines for evaluating literature.
- Create and use your own Annotated Bibliography of Children’s Literature (MLA).
- Focus on key concepts and write responses based on your own interests.
- Work in groups to develop creative responses to the literature.

“Know you what it is to be a child? It is to turn pumpkins into coaches, and mice into horses, lowness into loftiness, and nothing into everything.” Francis Thompson Shelley
COURSE ASSIGNMENTS/ASSESSMENT

Group Activity/Presentations (200 points) Please always be prepared for a discussion of the weekly readings as well as the works you are currently reading (the books you are reading for review/bibliography) by studying the assigned chapter (before Tuesday’s class) and by bringing a few books in the area to be discussed (Thursday). Be prepared for small group activities based on the weekly chapter reading in our text (Children’s Literature in the Elementary School). Present, participating, and presenting receives full credit.

Weekly Writings (300 points): DUE EVERY THURSDAY You’ll be gathering your responses to chapter readings as well as practicing and refining your description/evaluation skills for your annotated bibliography in a focused writing (or other format) each week. These weekly writings, which are designed for you to reflect on and apply what you are learning in each chapter, must be typed (1 full page single-spaced) and will be evaluated on the quality of your response. Please label and date each entry. To receive full credit, these writings must be turned in on time.

Annotated Bibliography (300 points): DUE WEEK TEN: Tuesday, March 13 Please prepare an annotated bibliography of a minimum of 25 children’s books, at least 22 of which should be chosen from our text (note the Children’s Literature Bibliography at the end of each chapter). Include a variety of picture books, information books, works of traditional literature, modern fantasy, poetry, and contemporary realistic fiction mentioned in class or in the text. Feel free to personalize your annotations. Your annotations will be evaluated on the quality of literature chosen, the range of genre or types, and the quality of annotation.

Essay (200 points): One formal essay.

CAMPUS RESOURCES:
- Conferences with your instructor – please visit with me early & often throughout the term.
- LBCC Library: (917-4638): Located on the first floor of the Learning Resource Center. You’ll find a growing collection of Children’s Books in our special class collection.
- Local Libraries: Become a steady visitor of your local library’s children’s room.
- LBCC Computer Labs: Learning Resource Center 213 and Forum 202. Use the Children’s Literature Database that comes with your text. Find your best ways for accessing information online and through electronic indexes.
- Writing Center: located in the Learning Center; open Mondays through Fridays 10:00 – 3:00

TIPS FOR SUCCESS:
- **Come to class.** It is essential to attend. Please keep in mind that in this class you are expected to be a team player in group activities. Please plan to attend all class sessions.
- **Do your work on time.** So that you will get the most out of the material we cover, please be up to date on reading and writing assignments each week before you come to class.
- **Do your own work.** Plagiarism (using someone else’s work as your own without proper documentation) will result in your failing the assignment.
- **Draw upon what you already know and love.** For your annotated bibliography, your class activities, and your writings, start with your own collection of favorite children’s books and your own interests.
- **Make use of what you’re learning** each week by sharing with young readers. This could mean volunteering in a school or library’s literacy program, reading hour, etc.
- **Design your own course goals.**
Tentative Calendar
Winter 2007

Week One: January 9 and 11
Chapter One: Knowing Children’s Literature

Week Two: January 16 and 18
Chapter Two: Understanding Children’s Response
Chapter Three: Changing World of Children’s Books

Week Three: January 23 and 25
Chapter Four: Books to Begin On

Week Four: January 30 and Feb 1
Chapter Five: Picture Books

Week Five: Feb 6 and 8
Chapter Six: Traditional Lit

Week Six: Feb 13 and 15
Chapter Seven: Modern Fantasy

Week Seven: Feb 20 and 22
Chapter Eight: Poetry

Week Eight: Feb 27 and March 1
Chapter Nine: Contemporary Realistic Fiction

Week Nine: March 6 and 8
Review and Work Party
ESSAY DUE

Week Ten: March 13 and 15
DUE: Annotated Bibliography

IT’S A PARTY!!!
Annotated Bibliography Celebration