



**FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
COLLEGE OF COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION  
*School of Information*

## **LIS 5564 - INFORMATION NEEDS OF CHILDREN**

**SECTION(S)**

**TERM 20XX, COURSE MEETING DAY/TIME, COURSE MEETING LOCATION**

**MODE OF INSTRUCTION: ONLINE**

*Students all meet with instructor for class weekly, synchronously, using a multi-media conferencing system such as Collaborate, at a specific class time indicated in the University's course schedule for each semester. Additional asynchronous interactions among students and with instructor will be required, as indicated below in course evaluation and assessments, to complete the course.*

**Instructor:**

**Email:**

**Office:**

**Phone:**

**Course Location/Website:**

**Office Hours (in office, online or via phone):**

**Teaching Assistant:**

**Email:**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

A study of the materials (books, magazines, video & film formats, audio, television, computer software, CD-ROMS, Internet resources, etc.) created for children, ages birth to twelve, with an emphasis on the process of evaluation in order to meet their educational, cultural, and recreational needs.

### **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:**

At the end of the course, the student will be able to:

1. Discuss the relationship between children's needs and interests, at various levels.
2. 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. Describe the various genres in Literature for children, including characteristics, special criteria, representative titles, and major authors in each by reading widely and critically.
4. Identify outstanding authors and illustrators for children and with their work, and to develop an understanding of their aims and methods.
5. Describe 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. Research current issues and trends in the field of literature and materials for children.
7. Survey the history of children's literature, and contemporary literature for children.
8. Identify major professional publications and sources of information that can help the adult who is using books and materials with children.
9. Demonstrate the ability to explore new books and materials for children, and to keep in touch with new developments in the field.
10. Review 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.
11. Articulate 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 MATERIALS:**

### **Required Textbook**

The following textbook, or a similar textbook, will be used for the course:

Horning, K.T., *From Cover to Cover: Evaluating and Reviewing Children's Books*, Rev. Ed. (New York: HarperCollins, 2010)

### **Other Required Reading**

In addition to assigned textbook readings, you will be reading many of children's books of different types and genres and keeping a journal 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 course calendar 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.

## **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND EVALUATION:**

**Participation:** Includes attendance and participation in class as a whole as well as a member of a small discussion group. All students are expected to take turns being the reporter in small group discussions. Reporters are responsible for keeping the discussion on track, reporting for the group in class, and posting group work to the Small Group discussion board.

**Reading Journals:** Students will use the journal format to keep track of their reactions to course assigned children's books. Journal entries will include a full citation for the work and a short reaction to a writing prompt provided on the course site.

**Reviews:** Students will write two (300 word) book reviews. One of a children's picture book and one of a work of fiction for children ages 9-12.

**Writing Assignment:** Students will choose one of two topics related to course content on which to write a five-page paper.

**Multicultural Paper:** Students will choose between three options on which to write a five page paper on multicultural issues in children's literature.

**Subject Bibliography:** Students will develop a fifteen page, selective annotated bibliography of twenty works in an area of interest of their choice.

### GRADE CALCULATION:

Each assignment is worth the following set amount of points. Your final grade will be based on how many points (out of 1000 possible) you earn over the course of the semester.

Participation	100 points
Reading journals (three journals, 50 points each)	150 points
Reviews (two reviews, 75 points each)	150 points
Writing assignment	150 points
Multicultural paper	150 points
Subject Bibliography	300 points
<b>Total possible points</b>	<b>1000 points</b>

### GRADING SCALE:

930-1000	A	730-769	C
900-929	A-	700-729	C-
870-899	B+	670-699	D+
830-869	B	630-669	D
800-829	B-	600-629	D-
770-799	C+	0-599	F

### COURSE SCHEDULE:

Week 1: Course Overview

Week 2: Choosing and Evaluating Children's Literature

Week 3: Children and Children's Literature

Week 4: Books for Babies and Young Children. Emergent literacy.

Week 5: Picture Books and Children's Book Art

Week 6: Beginning Readers

Week 7: Folklore, Fairy Tales, Fables, and Myths

Week 8: Fantasy and Science Fiction  
Week 9: Poetry  
Week 10: Contemporary Realism  
Week 11: Historical Fiction, Mystery, and Adventure  
Week 12: Diversity  
Week 13: Books of Information  
Week 14: Non-Book Resources  
Week 15: Reference Work with Children

## **UNIVERSITY POLICIES:**

### **University Attendance Policy:**

Excused absences include documented illness, deaths in the family and other documented crises, call to active military duty or jury duty, religious holy days, and official University activities. These absences will be accommodated in a way that does not arbitrarily penalize students who have a valid excuse. Consideration will also be given to students whose dependent children experience serious illness.

### **Academic Honor Policy:**

The Florida State University Academic Honor Policy outlines the University's expectations for the integrity of students' academic work, the procedures for resolving alleged violations of those expectations, and the rights and responsibilities of students and faculty members throughout the process. Students are responsible for reading the Academic Honor Policy and for living up to their pledge to "...be honest and truthful and...[to] strive for personal and institutional integrity at Florida State University." (Florida State University Academic Honor Policy, found at <http://fda.fsu.edu/academic-resources/academic-integrity-and-grievances/academic-honor-policy>.)

### **Plagiarism**

**Plagiarism** of any type, including material from Internet sources, will not be tolerated. Cases of academic dishonesty such as plagiarism and cheating will be investigated & pursued vigorously according to departmental and (if needed) university procedures. Before submitting any work for this class, please read the "Academic Honor System" in its entirety (see link above) and ask me to clarify any of its expectations that you do not understand.

### **Americans With Disabilities Act:**

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodation should:

- (1) register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center; and
- (2) bring a letter to the instructor indicating the need for accommodation and what type.

Please note that instructors are not allowed to provide classroom accommodation to a student until appropriate verification from the Student Disability Resource Center has been provided.

This syllabus and other class materials are available in alternative format upon request.

For more information about services available to FSU students with disabilities, contact the:

Student Disability Resource Center  
874 Traditions Way  
108 Student Services Building  
Florida State University  
Tallahassee, FL 32306-4167  
(850) 644-9566 (voice)  
(850) 644-8504 (TDD)  
sdrc@admin.fsu.edu  
<http://www.disabilitycenter.fsu.edu/>

### **Syllabus Change Policy**

Except for changes that substantially affect implementation of the evaluation (grading) statement, this syllabus is a guide for the course and is subject to change with advanced notice.

## **SCHOOL OR DISCIPLINARY POLICIES:**

### **Copyright Statement**

Some of the materials in this course are possibly copyrighted. They are intended for use only by students registered and enrolled in this course and only for instructional activities associated with, and for the duration of, the course. They may not be retained in another medium or disseminated further. They are provided in compliance with the provisions of the *Technology, Education, And Copyright Harmonization* (TEACH) Act (refer to the 3/7/2001 TEACH Act at [www.copyright.gov/legislation/archive/](http://www.copyright.gov/legislation/archive/) ).

### **Sexual Harassment Policy**

It is the policy of the University that its employees and students neither commit nor condone sexual harassment in any form.

[http://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/graduate/information/university\\_notices/](http://registrar.fsu.edu/bulletin/graduate/information/university_notices/)

### **iSchool Hardware and Software Requirements**

A list of all hardware and software requirements for students participating in the School of Information (iSchool) courses can be found at the following location:

<http://ischool.cci.fsu.edu/academics/online/requirements/>

**Student Eligibility for an Incomplete Grade**

Incomplete (“I”) grades will not be assigned, except in the case of exceptional unforeseen circumstances that occur within the last three weeks of the semester and your work has otherwise been satisfactory (C average).