FALL 2008
Thursday, 6:00 – 8:50 pm
August 28 – December 11, 2008

INSTRUCTOR
Leanne Bowler

TEACHING ASSISTANT
Tingting Jiang

CONTACT
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OFFICE HOURS
Tuesdays: 3:00 – 5:00
Thursdays: 3:00 – 5:00
Or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION
The goal of this course is to provide students with the ability to appreciate, critique, evaluate, and promote library resources for children, ages 0 - 12.

COURSE OBJECTIVES
• To appreciate the visual, oral, aesthetic, emotional, intellectual and imaginative appeal of library resources for children.
• To identify and discuss current trends, issues, and problems in the selection and evaluation of resources for children.
• To apply knowledge of the needs, interests and concerns of children to the selection and evaluation of library resources for children.
• To develop a personal perspective on the nature of library resources for children.
COURSE CONTENT

• Child development and its relationship to the selection and use of library resources.
• Current trends, issues and research in library services for youth: Intellectual freedom and censorship; diversity and equity; effect of media on children’s choices (choices available to them and the choices they make); effects of living in a “wired world”; gender issues.
• Literary elements of stories; literary archetypes; genre.
• Demonstration and exploration of a wide selection of materials for children, including books, audio/visual media and electronic resources.
• Selection and collection development: Selection criteria, selection tools and policies, collection assessment.
• Policies and practices related to intellectual freedom.
• Reading: reading development, preferences and ways to promote (story time, literature circles, book talks, pathfinders and bibliographies).
• Information behavior: children’s information needs, children’s information-seeking behavior.

BASIC READINGS

• Selection of readings available on e-Reserve.
• Children’s books, available for purchase at The Book Center, on reserve in the Information Sciences Library, or borrowed from your local public library:
  o Ellis, Deborah. Three Wishes.
  o Falconer, Ian. Olivia.
  o Gantos, Jack. Joey Pigza Swallowed the Key.
  o Lowry, Lois. The Giver
  o Patron, Susan. The Higher Power of Lucky.
  o Scieszka, Jon. The Stinky Cheese Man and Other Fairly Stupid Tales.
  o Shannon, David. No, David!

TEACHING METHODS

• Lecture and demonstration
• Readings
• Group discussion
• Student presentations
• Guest speakers
EVALUATION

Assignment 1: Journal examination 15%
Due: Thursday, September 18

Assignment 2: Annotate and review a picture book 20%
Due: Thursday, October 16

Assignment 3: Read-aloud a picture book 5%
Due: This assignment will be completed in class on the following dates:
  • On-campus students: October 30, 2008
  • Fast-track students: November 1, 2008 (Fast-track weekend)

Assignment 4: Annotated pathfinder and report 25%
Due: Thursday, December 4, 2008

Book Club (On-line Discussion Forums) 35%
Seven book discussions throughout the term.
Due: For dates, see discussion group guidelines

POLICIES FOR CLASS SUBMISSIONS

• Assignments are due by midnight on the date noted above.
• For electronic submissions:
  o Send by email to:
    ▪ Leanne Bowler: lbowler@sis.pitt.edu
    ▪ CC a copy to Tingting Jiang (email supplied in class)
  o In the subject area of your email, write the course number, assignment number and term.
    ▪ e.g. LIS2322_Assign1_Fall08
  o Label electronic files in a uniform manner. Include in the file name the following details: Your name, the course number, the assignment, the term, the year
    ▪ e.g. SueStudent_LIS2322_Assign1_Fall08
• Label the assignment:
  o On the title page, provide the following details: The title of your assignment, your name, the course number, the assignment number, the term, the year.
  o On each subsequent page, provide a header or footer with the following information: Your name, the course number, the assignment number, the term, the year.
    ▪ e.g. SueStudent_LIS2322_Assign1_Fall08
• Staple all pages together. Don’t fold the corner and hope it all sticks together!
COMPETENCIES ADDRESSED BY THIS COURSE
Association for Library Service to Children:
http://www.ala.org/ala/alsc/alscresources/forlibrarians/professionaldev/competencies.cfm
- Knowledge of client group
- Communication skills
- Materials and collection development.
  - Knowledge of materials
  - Ability to Select Appropriate Materials and Develop a Children's Collection
  - Ability to Provide Customers with Appropriate Materials and Information
- Professionalism and professional development

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
- Students are expected to maintain a high level of integrity in all their work. All students are expected to have read and understood, and to follow the Student Obligations for Academic Integrity. (http://www.sis.pitt.edu/academics/integrity.html).
- Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in a grade of “F” (failure).

SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES
- If you have a special need (physical or learning impairments), notify the instructor within the first two weeks of the term in order to make accommodations in the course.
- If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union (412-648-7890/TTY:412-383-7366) as early as possible in the term. You should also consult the office’s website www.drs.pitt.edu. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodation for this course.
- If you need to miss a class due to religious observances, please notify the instructor in advance and make alternative arrangements for the material that you miss.

COMMUNICATION POLICY
- Please turn off all electronic devices during the class period.
- Respectful interaction with your colleagues, the professor, and all guest speakers is expected.
- You are part of a community of learners. In discussion groups (in-class and online), please listen to your colleagues, read their postings, and respond thoughtfully.
- I will respond to your email as quickly as possible. Email posted to me on a holiday will be answered no earlier than the first working day following the holiday. Email posted to me in the evening will not be answered the same evening.
- Please include your full name (first name and surname) on all email.