

LIT-904: Children's Literature

Independent Study Online Course Syllabus

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Number of Graduate Semester Units: 3 units

Target Audience: K - 8th grade teachers

Course Access: <https://connect.fresno.edu>

Course Description

Learning how to bring children and texts together in productive and satisfying experiences is the ultimate goal in this course. Teachers will become more aware of the wealth of available children's literature and they will develop skills for selecting literature that is enriching and beneficial for children.

Few experiences are so universally enjoyed by children as reading. *Children's Books in Children's Hands*, the text for this course, is an inviting and practical book full of exciting ideas. Specific suggestions for meeting the Common Core Standards are interspersed throughout. Teachers will read selected chapters in the text and engage in a variety of exercises to enhance their own understanding of the role of literature in the classroom.

Course activities include interviewing children, analyzing and critiquing children's books, evaluating classroom settings, and selecting texts around themes.

The Common Core State Standards for Language Arts as well as the five core propositions of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards have provided the guiding principles and philosophical basis for this course. Participants may be asked to make connections between course work and these standards or the standards of their own states.

Note: Required book must be acquired separately.

Required Texts and Course Materials

Book: *Children's Books in Children's Hands*, by Charles Temple, Miriam Martinez, and Junko Yokota. Pearson, 2018. 6th edition. ISBN-13: 978-0134798684 <https://www.amazon.com/Childrens-Books-Hands-Introduction-Literature/dp/0134798686>

Note: Students are responsible for purchasing their own textbook, analyzing the content, and applying what they learned to the course assignments. You are welcome to purchase used, e-book, or new versions to save money. You can order the book directly from the publisher or from one of several discount aggregators (for example): <https://amazon.com>

Online Resources: Relevant online resources that support the course content and encourage further investigation will be available throughout the course assignments. Active hyperlinks are utilized throughout the course and will link to the appropriate information when clicked. These include videos, podcasts, worksheets, online activities, journal articles and other resources.

Canvas: This course will be delivered totally online. Canvas is a web-based learning management system (LMS) that provides students access to online resources, documents, videos, assignments, quizzes, forums, etc. Canvas is easy to learn and has a user-friendly interface.

Course Dates

Self-paced; students may enroll at any time and take up to one year, from the date of registration, to complete assignments. Students may complete assignments in no less than three weeks for a 3-unit course (one week per unit).

National Standards Addressed in This Course

National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS)

(<http://www.nbpts.org/standards-five-core-propositions/>)

First published in 1989 and updated in 2016, [*What Teachers Should Know and Be Able to Do*](#) articulates the National Board's Five Core Propositions for teaching. The Five Core Propositions - comparable to medicine's Hippocratic Oath — set forth the profession's vision for accomplished teaching. Together, the propositions form the basis of all National Board Standards and the foundation for National Board Certification. Course assignments have been designed so students can demonstrate excellence against these professional teaching standards whenever possible.

- Proposition 1: Teachers are committed to students and their learning
- Proposition 2: Teachers know the subject they teach and how to teach those subjects to students
- Proposition 3: Teachers are responsible for managing and monitoring student learning
- Proposition 4: Teachers think systematically about their practice and learn from experience
- Proposition 5: Teachers are members of learning communities

Common Core State Standards (CCSS) (www.corestandards.org)

This course is designed to reinforce and support the English Language Arts Standards of the Common Core State Standards Initiative (CCSS). The Anchor Standards for Reading (Grades K-6) are listed here:

- Key Ideas and Details
- Craft and Structure
- Integration of Knowledge and Ideas
- Range of Reading and Level of Text Complexity

Continuing Education Student Learning Outcomes (CE-SLO)

CE-SLO 1	Demonstrate proficient written communication by articulating a clear focus, synthesizing arguments, and utilizing standard formats in order to inform and persuade others, and present information applicable to targeted use.
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CE-SLO 2	Demonstrate comprehension of content-specific knowledge and the ability to apply it in theoretical, personal, professional, or societal contexts.
CE-SLO 3	Reflect on their personal and professional growth and provide evidence of how such reflection is utilized to manage personal and professional improvement.
CE-SLO 4	Apply critical thinking competencies by generating probing questions, recognizing underlying assumptions, interpreting and evaluating relevant information, and applying their understandings to the professional setting.
CE-SLO 5	Reflect on values that inspire high standards of professional and ethical behavior as they pursue excellence in applying new learning to their chosen field.
CE-SLO 6	Identify information needed in order to fully understand a topic or task, organize that information, identify the best sources of information for a given enquiry, locate and critically evaluate sources, and accurately and effectively share that information.

Course Student Learning Outcomes (C-SLO)

Student Learning Outcomes for This Course By the end of this course student will be able to:	National Standards Addressed*	CE-SLO Addressed**
1. define and identify the characteristics of good books for children.	CCSS 1-9; NBPTS Props. 1-5	CE 2, 4, 6
2. analyze how children's development shapes their responses to literature.	NBPTS Props. 1-5	CE 1, 2, 4, 6
3. acquire skills to help children learn about literary elements, such as characterization, plot, and theme.	CCSS 1-7, 9; NBPTS Prop. 2	CE 1, 2, 4, 6
4. understand and appreciate the role of multicultural literature.	CCSS 3, 6, 9; NBPTS Prop. 1-4	CE 2, 3, 4
5. critique and modify a classroom setting to enhance literacy.	NBPTS Props. 1-5	CE 3, 4
6. develop lesson plans to effectively share literature from multiple genres with children.	CCSS 1-9; NBPTS Props. 1-5	CE 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7. connect lessons to state or national standards.	NBPTS Prop. 5	CE 3, 4, 5

* Please refer to the section on **National Standards Addressed in This Course**

** Please refer to the section on **Continuing Education Program Student Learning Outcomes**

Topics, Assignments, and Activities

Note: Upon registration, students will receive access to the course on Moodle where they will find more specific instructions concerning the assignments. Please consult these before beginning the coursework.

Module Title	Module Assignments and Activities	Points Possible for Each Assignment
Welcome Module	- Welcome Video - Course Syllabus - Introduce Yourself Forum	
Module 1 – The Voices of Children	- Browse the text to discover the wealth of information and resources it contains. - Read the preface to understand the goals of the text and to clarify the purposes of this course. - Read Chapter One. - Follow the instructions in Teaching Idea 1.1 (p 3). - Use either a small group of children or interviews with four or five Individuals. 1.1 - Record your discoveries in several short paragraphs. (200-300 words)	100
Module 2 – Outstanding Children's Literature	- Pick any children's book. Identify the name and author of the book. - Evaluate it according to the qualities of "outstanding" children's literature identified with bullet points on pages 8-9 of the text. 2.1 - Record your reflections in several short paragraphs. 2.2 - Forum: Share one example of an outstanding book.	100 50
Module 3 – Literary Elements at Work	- Read Chapter Two: "Literary Elements in Works for Children." - Select three children's books, each of which is an especially effective illustration of one of the literary elements discussed in this chapter. 3.1 - Write a brief paragraph about each book, explaining your choice.	100
Module 4 – Diverse Perspectives in Children's Literature	- Read Chapter Four: "Literature Representing Diverse Perspectives." - Survey the multicultural books that are available in your public or school library and collect a representative sample. 4.1 - Evaluate four or five of the books in light of the issues discussed in this chapter (pp 94-100). 4.2 - Forum: Share one book that meets the criteria of a high quality multicultural children's book.	100 50

Module 5 – From Picturebooks to Science Fiction	- Based on your teaching level and personal interest, select and read one of the following: Chapter Three: “Picturebooks,” Chapter Seven: “Traditional Literature,” or Chapter Eight: “Modern Fantasy and Science Fiction.” 5.1 - Identify the chapter read and discuss three insights from this chapter.	100
Module 6 – Reading Nonfiction: Tools and Support	- Read Chapter Eleven: “Nonfiction.” - Select a topic identified in Table 11.1 (p 286) in the course text. - Prepare a short unit (2-3 lessons) using at least two nonfiction texts. - Include information on “Organizational and Support Tools” as identified in Table 11.3 (p 295). 6.1 - Submit a brief outline of the unit, identifying goals or objectives, texts used, classroom activities, and an analysis of the unit’s effectiveness.	100
Course Wrap-up – Grading and Evaluation	- Final Reflection Forum - Course Evaluation - Course Completion Checklist - Grade Request / Transcript Request	
	TOTAL POINTS	700 points

Grading Policies, Rubrics, and Requirements for Assignments

Grading Policies

- Assignments will be graded per criteria presented in the course rubrics.
- A = 90-100% and B = 80-89%, (anything below 80% will not receive credit.)
- The discernment between an A or a B letter grade is at the discretion of the instructor based on the quality of work submitted (see course rubrics).
- Coursework falling below a B grade will be returned with further instructions.
- All assignments must be completed to receive a grade and are expected to reflect the quality that teacher-training institutions require of professional educators. If completed assignments do not meet this standard, students will be notified with further instructions from the instructor.

Grading Rubrics

Grade	Percent	Description	Rubric
A	90-100%	Excellent	Meets all course / assignment requirements with significant evidence of subject mastery and demonstration of excellent graduate level professional development scholarship.
B	80-89%	Very Good	Adequately meets criteria for all course/assignment requirements - demonstrates subject competency with very good graduate level professional development scholarship.

NC	Below 80%	Unacceptable	Does not meet the minimum criteria for all course/assignment requirements and demonstrated little, if any, evidence of acceptable graduate level professional development scholarship.
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Writing Requirements

- **Superior:** Writing is clear, succinct, and reflects graduate level expectations. Clearly addresses all parts of the writing task. Maintains a consistent point of view and organizational structure. Includes relevant facts, details, and explanations.
- **Standard:** Writing is acceptable with very few mistakes in grammar and spelling. Addresses most parts of the writing task. Maintains a mostly consistent point of view and organizational structure. Includes mostly relevant facts, details, and explanations.
- **Sub-standard:** Writing contains noticeable mistakes in grammar and spelling. Does not address all parts of the writing task. Lacks a consistent point of view and organizational structure. May include marginally relevant facts, details, and explanations.

Lesson Plan Requirements

- **Superior:** Instructional goals and objectives clearly stated. Instructional strategies appropriate for learning outcome(s). Method for assessing student learning and evaluating instruction is clearly delineated and authentic. All materials necessary for student and teacher to complete lesson clearly listed.
- **Standard:** Instructional goals and objectives are stated but are not easy to understand. Some instructional strategies are appropriate for learning outcome(s). Method for assessing student learning and evaluating instruction is present. Most materials necessary for student and teacher to complete lesson are listed.
- **Sub-standard:** Instructional goals and objectives are not stated. Learners cannot tell what is expected of them. Instructional strategies are missing or strategies used are inappropriate. Method for assessing student learning and evaluating instruction is missing. Materials necessary for student and teacher to complete lesson are missing.

Instructor/Student Contact Information

Throughout the course participants will be communicating with the instructor and their classmates on a regular basis using asynchronous discussion forums. Students are provided with instructor contact information in the event they want to make email or phone contact. In addition, students are encouraged to email or phone the instructor at any time. Students will also receive feedback on the required assignments as they are submitted.

Forums

Participation is an important expectation of this course and all online courses. Online discussions promote reflection and analysis while allowing students to appreciate and evaluate positions that others express. While students may not be engaging with the same students throughout this course, they will be expected to offer comments, questions, and replies to the discussion question whenever possible. The faculty role in the discussion forum is that of an observer and facilitator.

Coursework Hours

Based on the Carnegie Unit standard, a unit of graduate credit measures academic credit based on the number of hours the student is engaged in learning. This includes all time spent on the course:

reading the textbook, watching videos, listening to audio lessons, researching topics, writing papers, creating projects, developing lesson plans, posting to discussion boards, etc. Coursework offered for FPU Continuing Education graduate credit adheres to 45 hours per semester unit for the 900-level courses. Therefore, a student will spend approximately 135 hours on a typical 3-unit course.

Services for Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities are eligible for reasonable accommodations in their academic work in all classes. In order to receive assistance, the student with a disability must provide the Academic Support Center with documentation, which describes the specific disability. The documentation must be from a qualified professional in the area of the disability (i.e. psychologist, physician or educational diagnostician). Once documentation is on file, arrangements for reasonable accommodations can be made. For more information and for downloadable forms, please go to <https://www.fresno.edu/departments/disability-access-education>.

Plagiarism and Academic Honesty

All people participating in the educational process at Fresno Pacific University are expected to pursue honesty and integrity in all aspects of their academic work. Academic dishonesty, including plagiarism, will be handled per the procedures set forth in the Fresno Pacific University Catalogue - <https://www.fresno.edu/students/registrars-office/academic-catalogs>

Technology Requirements

To successfully complete the course requirements, course participants will need Internet access, can send and receive email, know how to manage simple files in a word processing program, and have a basic understanding of the Internet. Please remember that the instructor is not able to offer technical support. If you need technical support, please contact your Internet Service Provider.

Getting Help with Canvas: If you need help with Canvas, please contact the FPU Help Desk by phone: (559) 453-3410 or email: helpdesk@fresno.edu. Help is available Mon-Fri 8:00 am to 7:00 pm.

Final Course Grade and Transcripts

When all work for the course has been completed, students will need to request their final grade by accessing the form at ce.fresno.edu/grade-request. Once the instructor receives the request and posts their final grade, students will receive an email communication from the University. Please allow at least two weeks for the final grade to be posted before you order your transcripts online.

University Policies and Procedures

Students are responsible for becoming familiar with the information presented in the Academic Catalog and for knowing and observing all policies and procedures related to their participation in the university community. A summary of university policies may be found on the university website at <https://www.fresno.edu/departments/registrars-office/academic-catalogs>.

Fresno Pacific University Student Learning Outcomes (FPU-SLO)

FPU-SLO 1	Student Learning Outcomes Oral Communication: Students will <i>exhibit</i> clear, engaging, and confident oral communication – in both individual and group settings – and will critically <i>evaluate</i> content and delivery components.
FPU-SLO 2	Written Communication: Students will <i>demonstrate</i> proficient written communication by <i>articulating</i> a clear focus, <i>synthesizing</i> arguments, and utilizing standard formats in order to <i>inform</i> and <i>persuade</i> others.
FPU-SLO 3	Content Knowledge: Students will <i>demonstrate</i> comprehension of content-specific knowledge and the ability to apply it in theoretical, personal, professional, or societal contexts.
FPU-SLO 4	Reflection: Students will <i>reflect</i> on their personal and professional growth and <i>provide evidence</i> of how such reflection is utilized to manage personal and vocational improvement.
FPU-SLO 5	Critical Thinking: Students will <i>apply</i> critical thinking competencies by <i>generating</i> probing questions, <i>recognizing</i> underlying assumptions, <i>interpreting</i> and <i>evaluating</i> relevant information, and <i>applying</i> their understandings to new situations.
FPU-SLO 6	Moral Reasoning: Students will <i>identify</i> and <i>apply</i> moral reasoning and ethical decision-making skills, and <i>articulate</i> the norms and principles underlying a Christian worldview.
FPU-SLO 7	Service: Students will <i>demonstrate</i> service and reconciliation as a way of leadership.
FPU-SLO 8	Cultural and Global Perspective: Students will <i>identify</i> personal, cultural, and global perspectives and will employ these perspectives to <i>evaluate</i> complex systems.
FPU-SLO 9	Quantitative Reasoning: Students will accurately <i>compute</i> calculations and symbolic operations and <i>explain</i> their use in a field of study.
FPU-SLO 10	Information Literacy: Students will <i>identify</i> information needed in order to fully understand a topic or task, <i>explain</i> how that information is organized, <i>identify</i> the best sources of information for a given enquiry, <i>locate</i> and critically <i>evaluate</i> sources, and accurately and effectively <i>share</i> that information.