

COURSE OUTLINE – Fall 2026

EN3890(A2): Studies in Children's Literature – 3 (3-0-0) 45 Hours for 15 Weeks

Northwestern Polytechnic acknowledges that our campuses are located on Treaty 8 territory, the ancestral and present-day home to many diverse First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people. We are grateful to work, live and learn on the traditional territory of Duncan's First Nation, Horse Lake First Nation and Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation, who are the original caretakers of this land.

We acknowledge the history of this land and we are thankful for the opportunity to walk together in friendship, where we will encourage and promote positive change for present and future generations.

INSTRUCTOR:	Dr. Heather Joyce	PHONE:	780-539-2977
OFFICE:	C418	E-MAIL:	hjoyce@nwpolytech.ca
OFFICE HOURS:	Mondays 3:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m. and by appointment		

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION: This course examines children's literature in English in historical and contemporary contexts.

PREREQUISITE(S): Six credits of Junior English

COREQUISITE(S): None

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Achebe, Chinua. *Chike and the River*.
Carroll, Lewis. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.
Eagle, Judith. *The Pear Affair*.
Selznick, Brian. *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*.

Additional readings will be posted on myClass (D2L). It is your responsibility to ensure that you are able to access and read these works in advance of the class in which they will be discussed.

DELIVERY MODE(S): Synchronous

LEARNING OUTCOMES: After taking this course, successful students will be able to

- articulate the theoretical and historical issues involved in (de)constructing the canon of children's literature
- define key terms and concepts appropriate to the study of children's literature
- use appropriate literary terminology when discussing representative works
- construct a persuasive argument that derives from close reading
- confidently read critical works and use secondary sources to enhance interpretation of primary sources
- articulate and set into action skills crucial to effective composition at the senior level.

TRANSFERABILITY:

Please consult the Alberta Transfer Guide for more information. You may check to ensure the transferability of this course at the Alberta Transfer Guide main page <http://www.transferalberta.alberta.ca>

**** For courses with alpha (letter) grading, a grade of D or D+ may not be acceptable for transfer to other post-secondary institutions. Students are cautioned that it is their responsibility to contact the receiving institutions to ensure transferability**

EVALUATIONS:

Quizzes (unannounced) – 10%
 Tasks (unannounced) – 10%
 Reflective Writing Assignment – 10%
 In-Class Essay – 15%
 Test One – 15%
 Test Two – 15%
 Final Exam – 25%

GRADING CRITERIA:

Please note that most institutions will not accept your course for transfer credit **IF** your grade is **less than C-**.

Grading Chart

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines	Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	95-100	C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-94	C	2.0	63-66
A-	3.7	80-84	C-	1.7	60-62

B+	3.3	77-79		D+	1.3	55-59
B	3.0	73-76		D	1.0	50-54
B-	2.7	70-72		F	0.0	00-49

COURSE SCHEDULE/TENTATIVE TIMELINE:

September 3 (R): Introduction

September 8 (T): excerpt from *The Governess; or the Little Female Academy* (Sarah Fielding)

September 10 (R): "The Story of the Cruel Giant Barbarico, the Good Giant Benefico, and the Little Pretty Dwarf Mignon" (Sarah Fielding)

September 15 (T): TBA

September 17 (R): selections from *The English Struwwelpeter* (Heinrich Hoffman)

September 22 (T): "The Jumblies" (Edward Lear)

September 24 (R): *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (Lewis Carroll)
chapters 1-6 ("Down the Rabbit-Hole" to the end of "Pig and Pepper")

September 29 (T): *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (Lewis Carroll)
chapters 7-12 ("A Mad Tea-Party" to "Alice's Evidence")

October 1 (R): Test One

October 6 (T): "The Devoted Friend" (Oscar Wilde)

October 8 (R): "The Reluctant Dragon" (Kenneth Grahame)

October 13 (T): *The Hundred Dresses* (Eleanor Estes)

October 15 (R): *Chike and the River* (Chinua Achebe)
chapters 1-8 (3-43)

October 20 (T): *Chike and the River* (Chinua Achebe)
chapters 9-18 (45-88)

October 22 (R): *The Iron Giant: A Story in Five Nights* (Ted Hughes)

October 27 (T): TBA

October 29 (R): Test Two

November 3 (T): *The Pear Affair* (Judith Eagle)
chapters 1-10 (1-98)

November 5 (R): *The Pear Affair* (Judith Eagle)

November 9-13: Fall Break (No Classes)

November 17 (T): *The Pear Affair* (Judith Eagle)
chapter 22-epilogue (201-77)

November 19 (R): *The Pear Affair* (Judith Eagle)

November 24 (T): In-Class Essay

November 26 (R): *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* (Brian Selznick)
Part One - chapters 1-6 (1-143)

December 1 (T): *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* (Brian Selznick)
Part One - chapters 7-12 (145-255)

December 3 (R): *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* (Brian Selznick)
Part Two - chapters 1-7 (259-393)

December 8 (T): *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* (Brian Selznick)
Part Two - chapters 8-12 (395-523)

A detailed schedule of readings is posted on myClass (D2L).

The final exam will take place during the final exam period (December 12-19).

STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. This course will be delivered online. Some course components (reading quizzes, tasks, tests, the in-class essay, and the final exam) require attendance.
2. Cameras must be activated every time we meet.
3. Reading quizzes and tasks will be completed during class. Missed assessments can be completed only in extenuating circumstances. The instructor should be notified by e-mail of impending absences *prior* to the beginning of class. Students may need to provide documentation. Missed assessments should be made up within two weeks of the missed class (unless the instructor agrees that extenuating circumstances preclude that possibility).
4. Students must attend the full class in order to receive a grade for tasks and quizzes that take fewer than 80 minutes to complete.

5. Students must complete the tests, in-class writing assignment, and the final exam during the allotted times. Alternative dates will be considered only in extenuating circumstances. Documentation may be required

6. For major in-class assessments (tests, the in-class writing assignment, and final exam), students must login to the meeting using their phones, allow the instructor to visually inspect the space in which they have chosen to write, and then set up the phone so the instructor can clearly see each student's actions during the exam (the view should include the laptop screen and surrounding area). All in-class assessments will be closed book unless otherwise specified. Students should ensure they have access to a reliable, continuous internet connection.

7. Assignments are to be uploaded to myClass (D2L). I will not accept assignments submitted via e-mail.

8. It is the student's responsibility to retain a copy of ALL assignments submitted for grading; in the unlikely event of loss, a duplicate copy must be made available upon request.

9. Written assignments are to be submitted on time. Late assignments will incur a penalty of 5% per day with weekends counting as two days.

10. Extensions will be granted for written assignments in extenuating circumstances. Documentation may be required.

11. Students are required to check the myClass (D2L) site for this course before each class to stay informed.

12. The myClass (D2L) site for this course contains everything students need to be successful. Students should resist the temptation to go outside of the course to consult literary guides, other websites, etc. Assignments **MUST** be completed using the versions of works I provide or the editions I assign. Assignments completed using alternate versions of the works will not be graded.

13. **Students are not permitted to use any AI resources (including but not limited to ChatGPT, Grammarly's AI tools, etc.) when completing in-class and out-of-class assignments for this course. All of the work you submit also **MUST** be your own.** We will discuss academic integrity in class, covering both what constitutes academic misconduct at NWP and the research and citation practices that can help students ensure they avoid charges of academic dishonesty and the associated penalties. Please note students are required to accept the Turnitin user agreement when submitting assignments via myClass (D2L).

14. Students are not permitted to record lectures using any means (including AI glasses, etc.) unless granted permission by Accessibility Services. Students with this accommodation are required to speak to the instructor prior to making any recordings.

15. You are welcome to contact me via e-mail to ask questions, etc. I will respond to most e-mails within 48 hours (depending on the volume of e-mails I receive). If you have a complicated question or are seeking specific assignment advice, you should contact me via e-mail and ask to meet

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT:

Academic Misconduct will not be tolerated. For a more precise definition of academic misconduct and its consequences, refer to the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy available at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/polytechnic-leadership/policies-directory>.

**Note: all Academic and Administrative policies are available on the same page.