

**Grande Prairie Regional College**

**EN 3890**

**Studies in Children's Literature**

**Lecture/VideoConference**

**3 Credits (3-0-0)**

**Transfer: UA\*, UC, UL, AU\*, AF\***

Section:	A2	Professor:	Dr. Louise Saldanha
Term:	Fall 2009	Office:	C308
Time:	Tues/Thurs: 2:30 p.m.– 3:50 p.m.	Tel:	780.539.2869
		email:	lsaldanha@gprc.ab.ca
Office Hours:	Tues/Thurs 10:30 a.m.– 12:00 p.m. or by appointment		

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**\*\* Prerequisites: Six credits of Junior English not including EN1201**

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**Course Description:**

This course involves a representative sampling of classics in children's literature in English in historical and contemporary contexts. The focus will be critical assessment of how prevailing and changing ideas about children and childhood are engaged, adapted, or challenged by various authors who write for children.

**Content Description:**

In this class, we will approach the study of these works analytically, focussing on developing an adult understanding of and appreciation for the texts children enjoy. We will focus on the dynamics of race, gender, class, and cultural difference in relation to writing/reading/teaching practices, within the context of our assumptions and attitudes about children and culture. The course will foreground the ways children's literature "teaches" children about being and living in the world and is therefore always political and non-neutral. *Because this is an English class rather than a course in Education, the emphasis is on literary critical skills rather than on methods or curriculum development.*

**Course Expectations:**

This will be a discussion-oriented course, and so you will be expected to participate actively in this class by contributing regularly to class discussions. You will be expected to attend class regularly and are responsible for obtaining information given in classes you miss, including handouts.

Because a large part of this class will revolve around discussion, and because we will often be engaged in talking about issues about which we care deeply, it is crucial that we establish and are committed to respect as our primary ground rule. A respectful learning environment means that we should participate with open minds in order that we all feel comfortable sharing our thoughts and ideas, that we all listen respectfully to one another, and that we encourage others who have not spoken to speak. Discussions must, thus, be engaged with a sense of responsibility to contribute constructively and to move the conversation forward.

### **Required Texts**

Griffith & Frey *Classics of Children's Literature* (6<sup>h</sup> edition)

Brown, Margaret Wise. *Goodnight Moon*

Gilmore, Rachna. *Lights for Gita*

Loyie, Larry. *As Long as the Rivers Flow*

McLellan, Joe. *Birth of Nanabosho*

Meyer, Stephanie. *Twilight*

Munsch, Robert. *The Paperbag Princess*

Philip, Marlene Nourbese. *Harriet's Daughter*

Seuss, Theodore, Dr. *The Cat in the Hat*

Tamaki, Mariko. *Skim*

***I prefer you use the editions of the books on sale at the Bookstore. If, however, you use other editions, please make certain that they are all unabridged (that no changes have been made to the original text).***

### **Assignments/Evaluation:**

Weekly reading responses	10%	Due: weekly; 3 graded at random
Group class presentation:	20%	Due: On-going (sign up)
Journal submission one	5%	Due: 29 September (two entries)
Journal submission two	15%	Due: 27 October (two entries)
Journal submission three	15%	Due: 1 December (two entries)
Final project	25%	Due: Scheduled by Registrar
Class participation	10%	On-going
(this includes coming to class prepared, contributions to class discussions, improvement, attendance, participation in small group work, as well as participation/active listening in large class discussions)		

### **Grading Scale:**

The following grading scheme will be used in this course:

<b>Alpha Grade</b>	<b>4-Point Equivalence</b>	<b>Percentage</b>	<b>Designation</b>
A+	4.0	96 – 100	Excellent
A	4.0	95 – 90	Excellent
A-	3.7	85 – 89	First Class Standing
B+	3.3	80 – 84	First Class Standing
B	3.0	75 – 79	Good
B-	2.7	70 – 74	Good
C+	2.3	67 – 69	Satisfactory
C	2.0	64 – 66	Satisfactory
C-	1.7	60 – 63	Satisfactory
D+	1.3	55 – 59	Poor
D	1	50 – 54	Minimal Pass
F	0.0	0 – 49	Failure

## **Notes:**

1. This course outline should be considered a guideline only. Time constraints and other unforeseen factors may require that some of the above topics be omitted or covered in less detail than indicated.
2. Cellular phones MUST be turned off during classes.
3. Work submitted for evaluation must be typed and double-spaced.
4. All work must be submitted personally to me. It is the student's responsibility to retain a photocopy or computer back-up copy of ALL assignments submitted for grading; in the event of loss or theft, a duplicate copy is required.
5. Late assignments will not be accepted unless arrangements for late submissions have been made with me at least two days prior to the date on which the assignment is due.
6. Attendance: You are expected to attend all classes and are responsible for obtaining information given in classes you miss. You must check to make sure you received all handouts as this material may be covered on exams as well. I am not able to keep track of who did not receive handouts so be responsible for yourself.
7. Attendance Policy: You are allowed two unexcused absences. These absences require no explanation on your part—they are “freebies.” An excused absence needs to be cleared with me and usually requires documentation. Any unexcused absences beyond two will lower your grade, and your participation grade will be affected.
8. Blackboard: Students are expected to check the Blackboard site for this course before each meeting to stay apprised of course updates, announcements, etc.
9. Email messages: Feel free to send me email messages regarding course related matters. Because of the large number of emails I receive daily, please allow approx. 48 hours for a reply, and please follow these requirements:
  - Please include your name, course, and section number in the message as this is not always clear from your email address.
  - Remember that your communications with me are occurring in an academic environment. Messages can be written informally—but do pay attention to correct grammar and spelling (especially since you are corresponding with an English professor!)

10. Email attachments: Should you need to send me an assignment as an attachment, please follow these requirements:
- I can only open attachments if these are sent as a Word document (.doc or .docx) or in Rich Text Format (.rtf).
  - I will only open attachments if these are accompanied by a note from you in the email message indicating the name of the assignment, its length, and its formatting. I will not open attachments simply sent without a note from you.
  - I will always inform you upon successful receipt of an attachment.
11. Students are advised to read the 2009/2010 Calendar for the rules regarding Registration, Withdrawals, Academic Misconduct including plagiarism, and Appeals.
12. The instructor reserves the right to use electronic plagiarism detection services.
13. Please see the College Policy on plagiarism under “Academic Conduct” in the Calendar. Plagiarism is never allowed. Plagiarism includes representing the ideas or words of another person as your own without proper acknowledgment and extends to the work of other students, the Internet, books, magazines, journals, TV shows, films, etc. This would not only include direct copying without citing the source but paraphrasing as well. You may not submit work for this class for evaluation you have submitted in other classes.
14. Class records related to this course will be maintained for one year after the last day of classes for the course. These records will then be destroyed in a secure manner.