

## DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

### COURSE OUTLINE – Winter 2023

#### EN3890 (A3): 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:** Tuesdays 3:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m. and by appointment

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

**PREREQUISITE(S)/COREQUISITE:** Six credits of Junior English

#### **REQUIRED TEXT/RESOURCE MATERIALS:**

Achebe, Chinua. *Chike and the River*.  
Carroll, Lewis. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.  
Eagle, Judith. *The Pear Affair*.  
Rowling, J. K. *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*.  
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):** Students are required to attend lectures, participate in class discussions, and complete the assessments listed below.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:** In this course, we will (re)define the boundaries of children’s literature.

Some of the questions we will consider include the following: What is the purpose of children’s literature? How do decisions to include some works in the canon of children’s literature and exclude others reveal prevailing social and cultural assumptions? How do works that are cross written to appeal to adults and children balance competing aims? To what extent does defining a work as an example of children’s literature change the very act of interpreting it? What critical and theoretical frameworks are most appropriate to the study of children’s literature? How do these works reflect and shape wider literary and cultural trends and movements?

**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.ca>.

\*\* 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:**

Reading Quizzes – 5%

Tasks – 20%

Task Extension – 10%

Writing Assignment One – 15%

Writing Assignment Two – 20%

Final Exam – 30%

**GRADING CRITERIA:**

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

Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines		Alpha Grade	4-point Equivalent	Percentage Guidelines
A+	4.0	90-100		C+	2.3	67-69
A	4.0	85-89		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:**

Week 1: Introduction

Weeks 2-5: Origins

Weeks 6-8: Twentieth-Century Inventions

Weeks 9-12: Late Twentieth-Century Revisions and Adaptations

Weeks 13-14: Critical Considerations

Week 15: Review

### **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES:**

1. This is an in-person course. Students are expected to attend class on campus. Please note that reading quizzes, tasks, and the final exam require on-site attendance.
2. Reading quizzes will take place at the beginning of class. Students must attend the full class to receive a mark for the quiz and may need to provide documentation to be considered exempt from or to make up missed quizzes.
3. Tasks will be completed during class. Missed tasks can be completed only in extenuating circumstances. Students may need to provide documentation.
4. Students must complete the final exam as scheduled. An alternative examination date will be considered only in extenuating circumstances. Documentation may be required.
5. Assignments are to be uploaded to myClass (D2L) and submitted directly to me in hard-copy form. **I will not accept assignments submitted via e-mail. Assignments will not be considered received until both electronic and hard-copy versions have been submitted.**

6. The myClass (D2L) site for this course contains everything you need to be successful. Resist the temptation to go outside of the course to consult literary guides, other websites, etc. All of the work you submit **MUST** be your own. We will discuss academic integrity in class. Please note students are required to accept the Turnitin user agreement when submitting assignments.
7. 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.
8. Written assignments are to be submitted *on time*. Late assignments will incur a penalty of 5% per day with weekends counting as two days.
9. Extensions will be granted for written assignments in extenuating circumstances. Documentation may be required.
10. Students are required to check the myClass (D2L) site for this course before each class to stay informed.
11. You are more than welcome to contact me via e-mail to ask questions, etc. Please note that you are more likely to receive a quick response if you contact me during regular working hours (Monday to Friday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.). My response time on weekends will be slower. 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 (i.e. if you would like me to read drafts, make suggestions regarding essay structure, etc.), you should contact me via e-mail and request to meet.

**STATEMENT ON PLAGIARISM AND CHEATING:**

Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated and there will be penalties. For a more precise definition of plagiarism and its consequences, refer to the Student Conduct section of the Northwestern Polytechnic Calendar at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/programs/calendar/> or the Student Rights and Responsibilities policy which can be found at <https://www.nwpolytech.ca/about/administration/policies/index.html>.

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