

San José State University
Department of English and Comparative Literature
English 112A Section 1 The Literature of Childhood Experience
Spring 2020

Instructor: Roohi Vora
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Office Hours: Tuesday/Thursday 12:00 - 1:00pm
Class Days/Time: Tuesday/Thursday 9:00 – 10:15am
Classroom: Sweeney Hall 444

Course Description

English 112A is an upper division course designed to introduce the literature of childhood experience to adult readers. Although children are the central characters and the main readers, writers of this genre structure their works using many of the same complex literary devices and themes found in adult literature. We will discuss these techniques as we analyze the readings, which represent a variety of cultures and ethnic diversity. While the assigned readings are all chapter books, students will also have the opportunity to become familiar with picture books, fairy tales, and folk tales. This course is designed to meet the subject matter requirement for those considering a teaching credential; though the information and curriculum approaches that we will explore will be helpful for elementary, middle, or secondary levels of instruction, this is a literature class, not an educational methodology class.

English Department Student Learning Objectives (SLOs)

Students shall achieve the ability to write complete essays that demonstrate college-level proficiency in all of the following:

1. Read closely in a variety of forms, styles, structures, and modes, and articulate the value of close reading in the study of Children's Literature.

2. Show familiarity with major literary works, genres, periods, and critical approaches to Children's Literature.
3. Write clearly, effectively, and creatively, and adjust writing style appropriately to the content, context, and the nature of the subject.
4. Develop and carry out research projects, and locate, evaluate, organize, and incorporate information effectively.
5. Articulate the relations among culture, history, and texts.

Required Texts/Readings

White, E.B. *Charlotte's Web*

L'Engle, Madeleine. *A Wrinkle in Time*

Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

Babbitt, Natalie. *Tuck Everlasting*

Lowry, Lois. *Number the Stars*

Spinelli, Jerry. *Maniac Magee*

Ellis, Deborah. *The Bread Winner*

Classroom Protocol

Attendance and participation are key components in this class. Come to class on time, prepared, with your reading completed, ready to contribute to discussions. Lack of attendance/participation affects your grade. Put mobile phones and electronics away.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Reading:

Reading is a crucial part of this course. We move fairly quickly through the works. Look ahead on the syllabus and make sure you have your reading completed for the class. (SLO 1&2)

Class Participation and Home Work:

This course is primarily based on discussion. Participation means that you are present in class, have read the material, and are ready to contribute your ideas and questions. Reading responses, quizzes, and presentations also factor into this portion of your course grade. In-class assignments cannot be made up; therefore, be sure not to miss class, and be there on time. (SLO 1, 4 & 5)

Mini Essay:

You will write a minor paper on an assigned course text using MLA format and present this essay to the class. (SLO 2&3)

Exams:

There will be a mid-term and final exam (dates on schedule). There will be essay portions for both exams, so you will need to bring large yellow books. Both exams are open-notes, open-book. (SLO 2&3)

Film Review:

You will write an essay on analyzing and evaluating a movie adapted from a novel. In your review you will write about the story (plot), message, complexity/clarity, acting, visual qualities, and creativity in the film. You will also compare the film to the novel which will form the conclusion of the essay. (SLO 2, 3&5)

Annotated Bibliography:

You will prepare an annotated bibliography of non-fiction, fiction, or poetry for a particular age range. You will receive further details in class. (SLO 2&4)

Book Project:

Working in groups, you will create (write, illustrate, and bind) your own children's book. (SLO 1, 3 &5)

Grading:

Mini Essay	10%
Midterm	15%
Final Exam	20%
Annotated Bibliography	15%
Book Project	20%
Film Review	10%
Participation	10%

Submitting Work:

All work assigned is due on the date indicated on the schedule. Late work is graded down one letter grade for each day it is late.

In English Department courses, instructors will comment on and grade the quality of student writing as well as the quality of ideas conveyed. Your grade depends on what

you say—and how you say it. All student writing should be distinguished by correct grammar and punctuation, appropriate diction and syntax, and well-organized paragraphs.

Requirements for particular assignments will vary, but in all cases essay grades will reflect the paper's effectiveness, which are broken down into three major areas: content (this includes maturity and sophistication of thought), proper organization, and clarity of expression. All assignments and exams are graded on a traditional A-F scale.

The following are the criteria by which your essays will be evaluated in this course:

An "A" essay is organized and well-developed, demonstrating a clear understanding and fulfillment of the assignment, written in a unique and compelling voice. It will show the student's ability to use language effectively with a solid command of grammar, mechanics, and usage.

A "B" essay demonstrates competence in the same categories as an "A" essay, but it may show slight weakness in one of these areas. It will respond to the topic suitably and may contain some grammatical, mechanical or usage errors.

A "C" essay will complete the requirements of the assignment, but it will show weaknesses in fundamentals, such as development. It may show weakness in mastery of grammar, mechanics, usage, or voice.

A "D" essay will neglect to meet all the requirements of the assignment or may be superficial in its treatment of the topic. It may lack development or fail to stay on topic. It may contain grammatical, mechanical, and/or usage errors that interfere with reader comprehension.

An "F" essay does not fulfill the requirements of the assignment.

Grading Breakdown:

Grading: A-F. This class must be passed with a C or better.

English 112-A is graded on a system of A, B, C, D or F. Students will be awarded letter grades for the essays assigned above. Each grade will be worth points and will constitute a certain percentage of the total grade (as given in the breakdown). The final grade for the course will be calculated out of a total of 100%. The point range for each letter grade is as follows. A 93 or above; A- 90-92; B+ 87-89; B 83-86; B- 80-82; C+ 77-79; C 73-76; C- 70-72; D+ 63-66; D- 60-62; F 59 or lower. For homework and class participation, students will receive a point each time they turn in homework and participate in class for the day. 10% class participation/homework/quizzes will be calculated on the basis of the points received by each student out of the total due.

Dropping and Adding: Students are responsible for understanding the policies and procedures about add/drop, academic renewal, etc. Refer to the current semester's catalog policies section at <http://info.sjsu.edu/static/catalog/policies.html> for any add/drop deadlines, policies, and procedures section and specific registration information. Late drop policy is available at <http://www.sjsu.edu/aars/policies/latedrops/policy/>. Students should be aware of the current deadlines and penalties for dropping classes.

University Policies

Academic integrity

Students should know that the University's [Academic Integrity Policy is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/download/judicial_affairs/Academic_Integrity_Policy_S07-2.pdf). Your own commitment to learning, as evidenced by your enrollment at San Jose State University and the University's integrity policy, require you to be honest in all your academic course work. Faculty members are required to report all infractions to the office of Student Conduct and Ethical Development. The website for [Student Conduct and Ethical Development is available at http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html](http://www.sa.sjsu.edu/judicial_affairs/index.html).

Instances of academic dishonesty will not be tolerated. Cheating on exams or plagiarism (presenting the work of another as your own, or the use of another person's ideas without giving proper credit) will result in a failing grade and sanctions by the University. For this class, all assignments are to be completed by the individual student unless otherwise specified. If you would like to include in your assignment any material you have submitted, or plan to submit for another class, please note that SJSU's Academic Policy F06-1 requires approval of instructors.

Campus Policy in Compliance with the American Disabilities Act

If you need course adaptations or accommodations because of a disability, or if you need to make special arrangements in case the building must be evacuated, please make an appointment with me as soon as possible, or see me during office hours. Presidential Directive 97-03 requires that students with disabilities requesting accommodations must register with the DRC (Disability Resource Center) to establish a record of their disability.

Course Schedule (Subject to Change)

Thursday, January 23	Review syllabus and expectations for class.
Tuesday, January 28	Diagnostic essay
Thursday, January 30	History of Children's Literature Picture books; Fantasy – Cinderella assignment
Tuesday, February 4	<i>Charlotte's Web</i> (Chapters 1-12) Mini essay assigned
Thursday, February 6	<i>Charlotte's Web</i> (Chapters 13- end) Discuss and assign Annotated Bibliography
Tuesday, February 11	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> (Chapters 1-3)
Thursday, February 13	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> (Chapters 4-6) Discuss Book project and form groups
Tuesday, February 18	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> (Chapters 7-10)
Thursday, February 20	<i>A Wrinkle in Time</i> (Chapters 11- end) Mini essay presentation #1
Tuesday, February 25	<i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i> (Chapters 1-5)
Thursday, February 27	<i>Harry Potter</i> (Chapters 6-8) Assign Movie Review essay
Tuesday, March 3	<i>Harry Potter</i> (Chapters 9-13)
Thursday, March 5	<i>Harry Potter</i> (Chapters 14- end) Mini essay presentation #2

Tuesday, March 10	<i>Harry Potter</i> (The movie)
Thursday, March 12	<i>Harry Potter</i> (The movie)
Tuesday, March 17	<i>Tuck Everlasting</i> (Chapters 1-12) Movie Review essay due
Thursday, March 19	<i>Tuck Everlasting</i> (Chapters 13- end) Mini essay presentation #3 Brief Project Plan for Book Project due (One per group)
Tuesday, March 24	<i>Number the Stars</i> (Chapters 1-7)
Thursday, March 26	Midterm Exam
SPRING BREAK:	March 30 – April 3
Tuesday, April 7	<i>Number the Stars</i> (Chapters 8- end) Mini essay presentation #4
Thursday, April 9	Annotated Bibliography Due; Begin presentations Bring an extra copy for the professor.
Tuesday, April 14	Annotated Bibliography Presentations continued
Thursday, April 16	<i>Maniac Magee</i> (Chapters 1-17)
Tuesday, April 21	<i>Maniac Magee</i> (Chapters 18-32)
Thursday, April 23	<i>Maniac Magee</i> (Chapters 33- end) Mini essay presentation #5
Tuesday, April 28	<i>The Bread Winner</i> (Chapters 1-7)
Thursday, April 30	<i>The Bread Winner</i> (Chapters 8-15) Mini essay presentation #6

Tuesday, May 5

Book Project Presentations

Thursday, May 7

Book Project Presentations

Final Exam:

Tuesday, May 19 7:15 - 9:30 P.M.