I. Basic Course Information
A. Course Number and Title: ECHD 213- Children’s Literature

B. Date of Proposal: October 2005

C. Sponsoring Department: Humanities, Social Sciences and Education

D. Semester Credit Hours: 3

E. Weekly Contact Hours: 3 Lecture 3
                      Lab 0

F. Prerequisites: None

G. Laboratory Fees: None

II. Catalog Description
This course is designed to provide students with a foundation in children’s literature and literacy processes and to develop and deepen students’ appreciation of children’s literature as a legitimate literary form by surveying the multifaceted world of children’s books. Throughout the course, concepts and strategies will be highlighted that help to cultivate children’s love of and response to literature. Children’s literature will be presented within the context of developing literacy and encouraging the integration of literature across the curriculum. The course addresses children’s literature issues from birth through age 10.

III. Statement of Course Need
This course is required in the Early Childhood AAS Degree and may be taken as an elective in the Early Childhood CDA Prep Certificate. It is also an option in the Paraprofessional Educator Certificate. This course is not designed as a transfer course.

IV. Place of Course in College Curriculum
   A. Free Elective
   B. This course meets a requirement in the following program: Early Childhood AAS Degree.
   C. Elective in the CDA Prep Certificate and the Paraprofessional Educator Certificate.
   D. This course is NOT intended for transfer.
V. Outline of Course Content

- Understanding Children’s Literature
  - Connecting Children and Literature
  - Engaging with and Responding to Children’s Literature
- Genre
  - Picture Books
  - Poetry
  - Traditional Literature
  - Modern Fantasy
  - Contemporary Realistic Fiction
  - Historical Fiction
  - Nonfiction
  - Biography
- Multicultural Children’s Literature
- Inclusive Children’s Literature
- Oral and Silent Literature
- Unit Studies
  - Integration

VI. Educational Goals and Learning Outcomes

A. General Education Goals

Students will:
1. Analyze the role of the teacher in language arts instruction (GE 1, 2, 5)
2. Demonstrate appropriate discussion skills through class discourse and projects (GE 1, 2)
3. Evaluate children’s literature for quality and age-appropriateness (GE 1, 2)
4. Utilize current and developmentally appropriate language and literacy practices with regard to children’s literature (GE 1, 5, 6)
5. Employ correct language and literacy terminology (GE 2)
6. Develop appropriate observation and recording skills while observing young children interacting with literature (GE 1, 6)
7. Utilize strategies for presenting children’s literature in classroom settings (GE 4, 5, 6)
8. Plan a literature based unit with integration across the curriculum (GE 1, 3, 4, 5, 6)

B. Learning Outcomes

Students will be able to:
1. Identify the characteristics of the nine children’s literature genre
2. Evaluate examples of quality children’s literature based on children’s developmental levels and the literary merit of the book
3. Identify outstanding authors and illustrators of children’s literature
4. Develop strategies for presenting children’s literature in classroom settings
5. Identify the nature of children’s responses to literature and how to nurture those responses
6. Utilize oral and silent reading strategies that will help children respond to literature
7. Develop strategies for assessing literature learning

VII. Modes of Teaching and Learning

- Lecture/Discussion
- Small-Group Work
- Student Oral Presentations
- Simulation/Role Playing
- Student Collaboration

VIII. Papers, Examinations, and other Assessment Instruments

Assessment methods may be:

- Response Papers for class readings
- Observation Reports - Students will observe children in various settings, take field notes, and analyze their observations with regard to course content.
- Group Project and Presentation (i.e. prepare and present a puppet show or dramatic performance of a children’s story or book. Course content will be reflected in the presentation.)
- Original Children’s Book - Students will write, illustrate, and “publish” an original children’s story. The book will represent a clear understanding of the important elements of a good piece of children’s literature.
- Participation in Class Discussions
- Other as specified by instructor

IX. Grade Determinants

In order to evaluate achievement of the goals and outcomes listed above, possible grade determinants may be:

- Participation in class discussions
- Chapter response papers
- Observation reports
- Interviews
- Group project and presentation
- Original children’s book
- Project plan
- Class participation and preparation
X. Text and Materials

- Texts
- Film/video
- Web sources
- Art materials

Suggested Textbook


XI. Resources

- Children’s books, which are available at the Children’s Campus and the public library