

TERM: Fall 2025

COURSE NUMBER & CATEGORY: ENGL 4600: Electives: Topics in Lit

COURSE TITLE: Children's Literature

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: MW 1:45-3:45 pm

INSTRUCTOR: Aimee Ross-Kilroy

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS:

: This course surveys children's literature through the combined lenses of literary and educational studies. To do so, we will consider both the aesthetic and social dimensions of children's literature, reflecting on its literary, educational, and moral role in children's development. Class readings and discussions will cover the history and development of children's literature as a whole, with a special emphasis on contemporary children's fiction and its attempts to address issues of multiculturalism and interculturalism. We will also consider the tension between the capacity of children's literature to entertain and its institutional role and value. Of central interest to us will be the concept of imagination, its value, and the ways in which literature fosters its development. Finally, participants in this course will reflect on professional and personal values and ethics as they become informed selectors, consumers, and teachers of literature for children.

This course is required for Liberal Studies majors and English majors with an STPP concentration.

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Understand the history of rhetorical instruction and composition studies.
- Develop a theoretical framework that informs pedagogical decisions.
- Evaluate pedagogical theories, practices, and classroom approaches.
- Develop an understanding of practical classroom skills.
- Develop a working knowledge of writing pedagogies, applications of writing theory, and methods.
- Demonstrate professional competence through writing assignments and presentations

CLASS LEVEL RESTRICTION:

Junior/Senior

RECOMMENDED/PREREQUISITES:

N/A

COURSE ATTRIBUTES:

OLD CURRICULUM

- GENRES (LD)
- HISTORIES (LD)
- AUTHORS (UD)
- CRITICAL/THEORETICAL (UD)
- COMPARATIVE (UD)
- CREATIVE/ARTISTRY

NEW CURRICULUM

- DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH (LD)
- HISTORY OF LIT, MEDIA, AND CULTURE (LD)
- READING AND WRITING GENRES (LD)
- THEORY, POWER, AND RHETORIC (LD)
- PRE-1800 (UD)
- CREATIVE ARTISTRY (UD)
- RACE, INTERSECTIONALITY, AND POWER (UD)
- UPPER-DIVISION ELECTIVE (UD)
- 5000-LEVEL SEMINAR (UD)