

Children's Literature
LIT 4331-1804
T 9-11 (4.05-7.05 pm)
Turlington 2318

Dr. Anastasia Ulanowicz
aulanow@ufl.edu
Office: Turlington 4362

This course will provide an introduction to major works of American children's literature written from 1868 to 2000. As we examine these texts, we will consider how and why (or even whether) they might be read specifically as children's books – and how, moreover, their study might prompt us to evaluate the American literary canon in its various historical permutations.

Additionally, we will question the ways in which these texts represent race, class, gender, and – perhaps most significantly – national identity. Of particular interest will be the question of how these texts use the figure of the child to support (or contest) notions of nationhood and citizenship.

Office Hours

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this class – or any other academic matters – please do not hesitate to meet with me during my office hours. If you cannot make my regularly scheduled office hours (1-3pm on Tuesdays), email me or see me after class to make an appointment.

Office Location

Turlington Hall is notoriously difficult to navigate, so here are some directions to my office:

- Take the Turlington main elevators to the fourth (4th) floor.
- When you exit the elevators, walk forward until the hallway ends.
- At the end of the hallway, veer left and walk past the bulletin boards (on your right and left sides) that offer information on the Children's Literature Center. My office will be immediately on your right.

Required Texts

Louisa May Alcott, Little Women
Horatio Alger, Ragged Dick
Mark Twain, The Adventures of Tom Sawyer
Frances Hodgson Burnett, Little Lord Fauntleroy
Frank L. Baum, The Wonderful Wizard of Oz
Laura Ingalls Wilder, Little House on the Prairie
Esther Forbes, Johnny Tremain

E.B. White, Stuart Little
Louise Fitzhugh, Harriet the Spy
Jean Craighead George, Julie of the Wolves
Judy Blume, Starring Sally J Freedman As Herself
Christopher Paul Curtis, The Watsons Go To Birmingham – 1963

Course Requirements

Attendance/Participation 10%
Discussion Question 5%
Quizzes 10%
Three Formal Papers 75%

Attendance/Participation

This is a discussion-based class; therefore, it is absolutely necessary that you not only attend class, but actively engage in class discussions. You will only get out of this class what you put into it.

If you miss more than one class, your final grade will be lowered by one letter-grade per absence.

You may be excused from class for illness (with doctor's note), family emergencies, and religious holidays.

Tardiness shows disrespect for the rest of the class. Thus, three (3) instances of tardiness will count as one (1) absence – and each additional instance of tardiness will count as an absence.

If you anticipate having trouble getting to class on time – for example, if you have an earlier course located across campus – please notify me of this fact **within the first two weeks of the semester**.

N.B.: Texting in class counts as an absence!!! When you text, your body might be in class, but your *mind* isn't. Since attendance/participation requires *mindful* (and not just bodily) presence, texting thus detracts from this portion of your grade.

Discussion Question

During the course of the semester, I will ask you to submit one (1) discussion question on an assigned text. You will be responsible for emailing to me an articulate and thought-provoking question – as well as a well-written and insightful paragraph-long response to this question – a day before we discuss the given text in class. Moreover, you will be responsible for posing this question to your classmates on the day we discuss the text.

Discussion questions will be due **no later than 6pm on the Monday before the scheduled class discussion**.

Quizzes

I will occasionally give pop quizzes during our class sessions; additionally, I may, at times, give brief take-home quizzes. If you miss a quiz, you cannot make it up. You can be excused from a quiz only so long as you have provided me with a legitimate, and documented, excuse.

Formal Papers

This semester, you will compose three (3) formal papers of *at least* five (5) pages each. In these formal papers, you will consider at greater length the texts and themes we have discussed in class. The papers will include a research component.

Formal Paper Grading Policy

I grade formal papers blindly. That is, I ask students to withhold their names from papers, and to place their university identification numbers on the top left-hand corner of each page instead. It is only after I have given a grade to each paper that I match ID numbers with names. ***Plagiarism will not be tolerated and is punishable by failure.***

- A =** A highly original paper worthy of revision for publication or entry in a student essay contest.
- A- =** An original, well-organized, well-narrated paper that makes a compelling, thought-provoking argument and supports it with substantial evidence (and discussion of such evidence) from the primary text.
- B+ =** A well-written and well-organized paper that supports its argument with ample documentation from the primary text.
- B =** A well-written and well-organized paper that sufficiently defends its thesis.
- C =** An essay that adequately addresses the concerns of the assignment.
- D =** An essay that meets the minimum concerns of the assignment.
- F =** An essay that does not meet the concerns of the assignment.

Disabilities

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

For more information, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is strictly forbidden and will result in failure.

All students must abide by the Student Honor Code. For more information about academic honesty, including definitions of plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

Harassment Policy

UF provides an educational and working environment that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment for its students, staff, and faculty. For more about UF policies regarding harassment, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/sexual/>

Final Grade Appeals

To make a final grade appeal, please contact Professor Stephanie Smith, the undergraduate coordinator, at ssmith@ufl.edu.

Tentative Schedule

27 August: Course Introduction

3 September: Little Women, part I (1868)
Sign-Ups for Discussion Questions

10 September: Little Women, part II (1868)

17 September: Ragged Dick (1868)

24 September: The Adventures of Tom Sawyer (1876)
Assignment #1 Given

1 October: Little Lord Fauntleroy (1886)

8 October: The Wonderful Wizard of Oz (1900)
Assignment #1 Due

15 October : Little House on the Prairie (1935)

22 October: Johnny Tremain (1944)

29 October: Stuart Little (1945)
Assignment #2 Given

5 November: Harriet the Spy (1964)

12 November: Julie of the Wolves (1972)

19 November: Starring Sally J Freedman as Herself (1977)
Assignment #3 Given

26 November: **Conferences; Assignment #2 Due**

3 December: The Watsons Go to Birmingham, 1963 (1995)

Assignment #3 due to my office (by hard copy or via email) no later than noon, Tuesday 10 December.

