COMMON COURSE OUTLINE:  Course discipline/number/title:  ENGL 2297: Survey of Children’s Literature

A.  CATALOG DESCRIPTION
1.  Credits: 3
2.  Hours/Week: 3
3.  Prerequisites (Course discipline/number):  ENGL 1117 or ENGL 1118 recommended, or instructor permission.
4.  Co-requisites (Course discipline/number): None

This course will survey children’s literature from the preschool to preteen years. Standards for critical evaluation will evolve through extensive reading, discussion, research, and writing. Course content will focus on the history of children’s literature and criteria for selecting and evaluating different genres within literature for children, including the following: picture books, traditional literature, modern fantasy, poetry, contemporary fiction, historical fiction, and multicultural literature. Recommended Entry Skills/Knowledge: College level reading and writing.

B.  DATE LAST REVISED (Month, year):  February, 2000

C.  OUTLINE OF MAJOR CONTENT AREAS:
1.  Read and evaluate a variety of literary works for children from different genres and for different age groups.
2.  Experience children’s literature through reading, discussion, oral presentations, writing about and researching the literature.
3.  Develop criteria for selecting and evaluating children’s literature.
4.  Learn the role of literature in stimulating children’s interest in language and reading and learn techniques to foster a lifelong love of reading.
5.  Learn strategies to enhance appreciation of literature and to combat illiteracy (knowing how to read but choosing not to), such as reading aloud to children and storytelling.
6.  Increase awareness of cultural diversity within the United States through reading and evaluating children’s literature from or about different cultural groups. Students will learn to evaluate the diversity or lack of diversity in children’s literature.
7.  Learn about the connections between communication and literature.

D.  LEARNING OUTCOMES (GENERAL): The student will be able to:

E.  LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC):
Goal 2/Critical Thinking: The student will be able to:
1.  Gather factual information and apply it to a given problem in a manner that is relevant, clear, comprehensive, and conscious of possible bias in the information selected.
2.  Imagine and seek out a variety of possible goals, assumptions, interpretations, or perspectives which can give alternative meanings or solutions to given situations or problems.
3.  Analyze the logical connections among the facts, goals, and implicit assumptions relevant to a problem or claim and generate and evaluate implications that follow from them.
4.  Recognize and articulate the value assumptions that underlie and affect decisions, interpretations, analyses, and evaluations made by themselves and others.

Goal 6/The Humanities-the Arts, Literature, and Philosophy: The student will be able to:
1.  Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of works of literature, philosophy, and the arts.
2.  Understand those works as expressions of individual and human values within a historical and social context.
3.  Respond critically to works of literature, philosophy, and the arts.
4.  Engage in interpretation of works of literature, philosophy and the arts.
5.  Articulate an informed response to works of literature, philosophy, and the arts.

Goal 7/Human Diversity: The student will be able to:
1.  Understand the definition of group identities in history and culture.
2.  Demonstrate an awareness of the individual and institutional dynamics of unequal power relations between groups in contemporary society.
3.  Analyze their own attitudes, behaviors, concepts, and beliefs regarding diversity, racism, and bigotry.
E. LEARNING OUTCOMES (MNTC): Continued...
4. Describe and discuss the experience and contributions (political, social, economic, etc.) of the many groups that shape society and culture in particular groups that have suffered discrimination and exclusion.
5. Understand how particular groups may have been excluded from representation in literature and the arts.
6. Demonstrate communication skills necessary for living and working effectively in a diverse society.

F. METHODS FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENT LEARNING:
1. Students will be evaluated by some or all of the following:
2. Research paper
3. Essay exams
4. Book reports
5. Quizzes
6. Written homework
7. Small group projects
8. Oral presentations
9. Group presentations
10. Journal-keeping
11. Or any other work judged appropriate by the instructor and indicated on the syllabus

G. SPECIAL INFORMATION (if any): None