

LIB 5190: Critical Evaluation of Library Media for Children Appalachian State University

Semester Year
Course meetings: day, time

Instructor
Instructor@[appstate.edu](mailto:Instructor@appstate.edu)

Zoom meeting location:

Office hours:

Note about Zoom: Class meetings will be held in Zoom, which can be accessed on most computers. An app for Zoom can also be downloaded and used to attend class (high data rates may apply). **Please test Zoom on any computer network or device before relying on it to attend class.** Zoom does require a small download to access and some networks (ex: K-12 school) networks may block access to Zoom. Questions or problems regarding the use of Zoom should be directed to 828-262-6266. You may also want to explore more about Zoom at: <https://asulearnhelp.appstate.edu/web-conferencing-0>. Additionally students should note that each all-class session will be recorded and uploaded to our shared Google Drive.

Course Description

Focusing on materials for children, this course investigates the full range of print and non-print media through lenses of literary criticism, bibliographic access, and practical utilization in public libraries, school libraries, and classroom settings. Students will analyze instructional and recreational uses of media, evaluate diverse formats, and explore how media services are developed and implemented to support children's literacy and engagement. Emphasis is placed on critical evaluation, inclusive representation, and selection for diverse developmental needs.

Course Objectives

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Critically evaluate children's literature and media using literary and educational standards.
2. Identify and assess bibliographic tools and resources for children's media.
3. Understand the role of library media in promoting literacy and lifelong learning.
4. Design strategies for integrating media into instructional and recreational settings.
5. Analyze and recommend media that reflects diversity in culture, ability, and experience.
6. Plan and demonstrate effective library services and programs for children.

Required Texts

1. **Horning, Kathleen T.** *From Cover to Cover: Evaluating and Reviewing Children's Books* (Updated Edition)
 2. **Galda, Lee, Cullinan, Bernice E., & Sipe, Lawrence R.** *Literature and the Child* (Most recent edition)
 3. Selected articles and chapters
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Course Topics by Week

Week	Topics	Readings & Assignments
1	Introduction to Children's Media & Critical Evaluation	Course Overview; Horning Ch. 1
2	Historical & Cultural Perspectives on Children's Literature	Literature and the Child Ch. 1–2
3	Picture Books: Visual Literacy & Artistic Criticism	Horning Ch. 2; Caldecott samples
4	Chapter Books & Novels: Narrative Structure & Theme	Literature and the Child Ch. 5
5	Nonfiction for Children: Accuracy, Authority, Appeal	Article: "Evaluating Nonfiction"
6	Media Literacy & Non-Print Resources (Audiobooks, Apps, Video)	ALA Selection Guidelines
7	Diversity, Equity & Inclusion in Children's Media	Horning Ch. 4; Coretta Scott King & Pura Belpré winners
8	Bibliographic Tools & Access (OPACs, MARC, databases)	Sample MARC records; WorldCat activity
9	Book Awards, Reviewing Sources & Collection Development	ALSC list review; Kirkus, SLJ
10	Programming for Children in Libraries and Classrooms	ALSC Programming Manual
11	Censorship, Intellectual Freedom, and Policy	ALA's Freedom to Read Statement
12	Digital Media and Technology in Library Services	Articles on interactive storytelling
13	Collaboration with Educators & Parents	Group Planning Activity
14	Field Observations / Case Study Reports	Field Work Due
15	Final Project Presentations & Course Wrap-Up	Final Project Due

Assignments & Grading

Assignment	Description	Points
Media Evaluation Journal (x5)	Written critical responses to selected children's media	25 pts
Booktalk Presentation	5-min in-class booktalk on a selected title	10 pts
Bibliographic Tool Analysis	Short paper analyzing a bibliographic resource	10 pts
Field Observation Report	3–5 page report on a children's program at a library or school	15 pts
Final Project (Selection Portfolio & Rationale)	Curate a mini-collection (15+ items) for a defined audience with annotations and policy justification	30 pts
Participation & Discussion	Weekly engagement, in-class/online discussions, peer feedback	10 pts

Total: 100 points

Course Policies

For those Library Science courses lasting five weeks, 10 points will be deducted from a student's grade for every class session missed.

Late Work

Unless discussed in advance, late work will be accepted with the following percentage reductions to the earned grade:

1st day late - 25% reduction

2nd day late - 50% reduction

3rd day late - 75% reduction

Appalachian State University's policies regarding academic integrity code, accommodations for students with disabilities, attendance policy, and statement on student engagement with courses can be found at:

<https://academicaffairs.appstate.edu/resources-forms/syllabi-policy-and-statement-information>

Research Appointments with a Librarian

If you need assistance with your research, whether it's finding sources, deciding on a topic, figuring out how to get started, you can [schedule an one-on-one research appointment](#) with our department librarian, Jennifer Woods, either in-person in Boone or online. She may also be reached by email at woodsjn1@appstate.edu.

