



James L. & Dorothy H. Dewar  
COLLEGE of EDUCATION  
& HUMAN SERVICES  
VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

**Department of Library and Information Studies**  
**MLIS 7420 | Literature for Youth**  
**Fall 2021**  
**Three Credit Hours**

**INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION**

Debi Carruth, Ph. D.

E-mail: [dlcarruth@valdosta.edu](mailto:dlcarruth@valdosta.edu)

Office Hours:

Email me or post to the Faculty Office discussion board and during the week I will response at least once a day. I will respond to communication received during evening hours or over the weekend by the end of the first business day following.

If you wish to meet in real time, I am happy to schedule that with you. Just send me an email with ***at least two potential times*** and whether you prefer Zoom, Teams, or phone.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

A study of the materials created for children with emphasis on the process of evaluation in order to meet the educational, cultural, and recreational needs of children.

**TEXTBOOKS / RESOURCE MATERIALS**

**REQUIRED TEXT(S)**

1. Short, K.G., Lynch-Brown, C., Tomlinson, C.M., Short, K.G. (2018). *Essentials of Children's Literature, 9th ed.* Boston, MA: Pearson Education, Inc. ISBN-13: 978-0-13-453259-2. [NOTE: If you already have the 8<sup>th</sup> edition, fear not. We'll work it out]
2. Horning, K. T. (2010). *From Cover to Cover: Evaluating and Reviewing Children's Books, Revised Edition.* HarperCollins Publishers, New York. ISBN: 978-0-06-077757-9 (pbk. bdg.), 978-0-06-077756-2 (trade bdg.)
3. You will be reading many children's books of different types and genres and keeping notes on your reading each week. You will also read selected articles and other pertinent materials that will be identified in the weekly course folder as required readings.
4. In addition, students are required to identify books and other materials for children that reflect their own research interests in order to complete several assignments in this course.

Additional resources (readings, videos, websites, etc.) will be available electronically via GALILEO databases, on Odum Library course reserve, or through the course BlazeVIEW website.

Please familiarize yourself with the VSU policy that prohibits the use of the Interlibrary Loan service for obtaining textbooks at <https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/documents/MLISPolicyonILLRequestsforTextbooks.pdf>.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to meet these Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). The SLOs are aligned with MLS program objectives (<https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/our-program/>):

SLO 1. Perform administrative, service, and technical functions of professional practice in libraries and information centers by demonstrating skills in **information resources, reference and user services**, administration and management, and **organization of recorded knowledge and information**. (MLIS PO1 – Collection Development project, LibGuide, module discussions)

- To become acquainted with the various genres in literature for children, including characteristics, special criteria, representative titles, and major authors in each by reading widely and critically
- To become acquainted with outstanding authors and illustrators for children and with their work, and to develop an understanding of their aims and methods
- To become acquainted with current issues and trends in the field of literature and materials for children
- To become aware of major professional publications and sources of information that can help the adult who is using books and materials with children

SLO 2. **Use existing and emerging technologies** to meet needs in libraries and information centers. (MLIS PO2 – LibGuide, module discussions, Book Trailer/Book Talk)

- To become acquainted with a variety of online resources for children's materials, including online discussion groups, electronic magazines, online books, and gopher and World Wide Web sites for accessing current information about awards, authors, and illustrators, as well as lesson plans and bibliographies

SLO 3. **Integrate relevant research** to enhance their work in libraries and information centers. (MLIS PO3 – Right Book for Each Child, module discussions, Book Trailer/Book Talk)

- To acquire knowledge of the relationship between children’s needs and interests, at various levels
- To develop general criteria for evaluating and selecting books and materials for children and to apply such criteria to a wide range of books and materials, including electronic formats
- To recognize the role of the adult in relation to children and their materials, and to learn techniques for introducing children to literature and for evaluating and encouraging their response to books and materials
- To briefly survey the history of children’s literature, and contemporary literature for children
- To acquire knowledge of the issues surrounding the representation of the different cultural groups in the United States in materials meant for children and how to evaluate, select, and employ multicultural materials when designing information programs and services

SLO 4. **Demonstrate professionalism** as librarians or information specialists. (MLIS PO4 – all assignments and discussions)

### **COURSE ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS/REQUIREMENTS**

Course activities include a set of readings and assignments. Details for each week are posted in the appropriate folder on the course website. ***It is the student’s responsibility to check the course calendar for DUE DATES for all class work and the weekly folders and assignment folders for all required and supplemental readings and other materials.*** Full descriptions of all required course work are provided in the assignments section of the course website.

**Weekly readings:** From the LIS professional and academic literature as indicated in the detailed reading list and are summarized on the course calendar. Articles will be available via GALILEO, or through VSU's Odum Library online course reserves, or links will be provided in the course website.

**Assignments:** full details are available in the Assignments section of the course website. Due dates are available on the course calendar in the course website. Students will submit their assignments as attachments to the relevant assignment module in the course website.

Youth Literature LibGuide (SLO 1, 2, 4)	= 10 points
The Right Book for the Right Child (SLO 3, 4)	= 10 points
Book Trailer/Book Talk (SLO 2, 4)	= 20 points
Collection Development Project (SLO 1, 4)	= 30 points
Discussion Boards (essays and responses)	= 30 points
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>= 100 points</b>

### **SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS**

All assignments must be submitted as instructed on the BlazeVIEW course website using Word formats (.doc or .docx suffixes only), PDFs, or other formats designated by the instructor. The university's Information Technology (IT) department provides step-by-step guides on how to use VSU's e-mail system and other resources. The IT Help Desk is at <http://www.valdosta.edu/administration/it/helpdesk/>. Their telephone hotline is 229-245-4357. BlazeVIEW is powered by the Desire2Learn (D2L) Brightspace course learning system. D2L provides 24/7 support 365 days a year. To contact D2L, go to <https://D2LHelp.view.usg.edu> or call the hotline at 855-772-0423.

### **LATE SUBMISSIONS, MISSED ASSIGNMENTS, & MAKE UP ASSIGNMENTS**

Completely skipping an assignment is not acceptable in graduate school. To be eligible to receive an **A** in this course requires completing every assignment, submitting within the specified deadlines, and performing above and beyond expectations on all work. Please see rubrics for each assignment to determine what 'Exceeds Expectations' encompasses.

All course work is due inside BlazeVIEW on the date and time indicated on the course calendar (based on the BlazeVIEW clock). Technology problems are not an acceptable excuse for submitting work late unless BlazeVIEW is down at the time the work is due.

## **COURSE GRADES**

Course grades will be awarded as follows:

- A: 90%–100%
- B: 80%–89%
- C: 70%–79%
- D: 60%–69%
- F: Lower than 60%

No grade below a **C** will be credited toward a VSU graduate degree and students must receive a grade of **B** or better to earn credit in core courses and the required collection development elective.

An overall grade of zero can be assigned to an entire paper or project if the instructor determines that its contents, or parts of its contents, were completed by a second party or copied into a paper or project from a source without proper citing. Noncompliance with rules on appropriate use of resources will result in zero credit for those parts of the assignment affected. If you are unsure about the parameters of an assignment, ask for clarification.

## **ATTENDANCE POLICY**

VSU requires that you attend class in the first week. You must complete the attendance activity in order to not be dropped for this course by the deadline. All course activities will be conducted through BlazeVIEW and Google sites. Course content is delivered asynchronously according to the course calendar. It is your responsibility to participate in all course activities

and submit assignments on time. It is in your best interest to log into the course at least several times each week (daily is best) to check announcements, discussion board posts, and emails.

### **COMMUNICATION**

Communication will be conducted through BlazeVIEW email, postings and replies in the discussion board, and/or BlazeVIEW announcements. Check these areas at least several times per week (daily is recommended) as you are responsible for knowing all information communicated through these channels.

VSU requires that all correspondence between the student and the instructor be conducted through official university channels. To that end, all email correspondence related to this course is to be sent using the email client built into the BlazeVIEW course website. For other correspondence with any VSU faculty members or administrative offices, please use your VSU email account.

### **PROFESSIONALISM**

The Department of Library and Information Studies expects you to pursue your academic endeavors and conduct yourself in a professional and ethical manner. All work submitted in the course must represent your own efforts. Cite sources and include reference information. You should communicate in a professional manner in both speech and writing and maintain a professional attitude, being respectful to others and their viewpoints. Exercise an awareness of the pervasiveness of the online environment and strive to maintain a professional online presence.

### **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

You are responsible for knowing and abiding by the Academic Integrity Policy as set forth in the Student Code of Conduct (<https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-conduct-office/student-handbook.php>) and the COEHS Policy Statement of Plagiarism (<https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/deans-office/policy-statement-of-plagiarism.php>). All students are expected to do their own work and to uphold a high standard of academic ethics. Consequences for acts of academic dishonesty are detailed in the COEHS Policy Statement of Plagiarism. For more information, visit Academic Honesty at VSU (<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/academic-honesty-at-vsuhp.php>).

### **STUDENT OPINION OF INSTRUCTION SURVEY**

At the end of the term, all students will be expected to complete an online Student Opinion of Instruction survey (SOI) that will be available through SmartEvals. Students will receive an email notification through their VSU email address when the SOI is available (generally at least one week before the end of the term). SOI responses are anonymous to instructors/administrators, and they will be able to access results only after they have submitted final grades. Before final grade submission, instructors will not be able to see any responses, but they can see the percentage of students who have or have not completed their SOIs. While instructors will not be able to see student names, an automated system will send a reminder email to those who have yet to complete their SOIs. Students who withdraw or drop a course will also be sent invitations to complete the Dropped Course Survey. Complete information about the SOIs, including how to access the survey, is available on the SOI Procedures webpage (<https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/academic-affairs/sois/>).

## TITLE IX STATEMENT

Valdosta State University (VSU) is committed to creating a diverse and inclusive work and learning environment free from discrimination and harassment. VSU is dedicated to creating an environment where all campus community members feel valued, respected, and included. Valdosta State University prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, sex (including sexual harassment and sexual violence), sexual orientation, gender identity, religion, age, disability, genetic information, or veteran status, in the University's programs and activities as required by applicable laws and regulations such as Title IX. The individual designated with responsibility for coordination of compliance efforts and receipt of inquiries concerning nondiscrimination policies is the University's Title IX Coordinator: Dr. Sherolyn Hopkins, [titleix@valdosta.edu](mailto:titleix@valdosta.edu), Student Union, Suite 3106, Valdosta State University, Valdosta, Georgia 31698, 229-333-5941. To file a report (not make an inquiry) please visit [https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?ValdostaStateUniv&layout\\_id=7](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?ValdostaStateUniv&layout_id=7)

## ACCOMMODATION STATEMENT

Students with disabilities who are experiencing barriers in this course may contact the Access Office for assistance in determining and implementing reasonable accommodations. The Access Office is located in Farbar Hall. The phone numbers are 229-245-2498 (V), 229-375-5871. For more information, please visit VSU's Access Office (<https://www.valdosta.edu/student/disability/>) or email [access@valdosta.edu](mailto:access@valdosta.edu)

## Helpful Links

Technical Support (IT helpdesk)	<a href="https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/it/solutions/">https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/it/solutions/</a>
Center for eLearning (support for BlazeVIEW)	<a href="https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/elearning/">https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/elearning/</a>
Academic Support Center	<a href="https://www.valdosta.edu/asc/">https://www.valdosta.edu/asc/</a>
Hope Connect (Mental Health Services)	<a href="https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-health/hope-connect-about.php">https://www.valdosta.edu/administration/student-affairs/student-health/hope-connect-about.php</a>