



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

Department of Library and Information Studies
MLIS 7998 - Special Topic: Genre's for Adult Readers
Summer II 2022
3 Credit Hours

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Colette Drouillard, Associate Professor
DLIS, Department of Library and Information Science

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Office: Odum 4660

Office Hours: By appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to teach students how to meet popular fiction reading needs of adult public library users. Genre fiction along with readers' advisory resources and tools are explored. The relationship of readers' advisory services with reference and other library programs, research on adult reading and with popular reading in an information society will be examined. The course introduces principles of readers' advisory work, but because of the immense body of literature available and our very limited amount of time, it will be covered in a brief, introductory manner. The fiction genres included are adrenaline, fantasy, historical fiction, horror, mystery, relationship fiction, romance, and science fiction. Relevant research, trends and issues related to readers' advisory are discussed

TEXTBOOKS / RESOURCE MATERIALS

Required Text:

Wyatt, N. and Saricks, J. (2019). *Readers' Advisory Guide to Genre Fiction*, 3rd ed. Chicago: ALA (**available as an eBook via Odum Library**)

Required Genre Titles:

RUSA 2022 Reading List Council winners for best of adult reading genres:

1. **Adrenaline** – *Razorblade Tears* by S.A. Cosby (Flatiron Books)
2. **Fantasy** – *A Master of Dijinn* by P. Djeli Clark (A Tordotcom Book)
3. **Historical Fiction** – *The Sweetness of Water* by Nathan Harris (Little, Brown & Company/Hachette Books)
4. **Horror** – *Nothing but Blackened Teeth* by Cassandra Khaw (A Nightfire Book)
5. **Mystery** – *Arsenic and Adobo* by Mia P. Manansala (Berkley Prime Crime/Penguin Random House)

6. **Relationship Fiction** – *The Guncle: A Novel*” by Steven Rowley (G.P. Putnam’s Sons/Penguin Random House)
7. **Romance** – *One Last Stop* by Casey McQuiston (St. Martin’s Griffin/St. Martin’s Publishing)
8. **Science Fiction** – *A Psalm for the Wild-Built* by Becky Chambers (A TorDotcom Book)

All other required readings are available in BlazeView as PDF files or links to online articles.

Please familiarize yourself with the VSU policy that prohibits the use of the Interlibrary Loan service for obtaining textbooks at <https://www.valdosta.edu/academics/library/general/about/policies/ill/borrowing.php>

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the course the student will:

- Describe popular genre fiction reading and media interests of adults according to studies and surveys
- Identify the types of popular fiction materials in various genres and formats
- Introduce the purposes of readers’ advisory service and knowledge of the techniques involved

COURSE ACTIVITIES/ASSIGNMENTS/REQUIREMENTS

Assignments

Assignment	Individual/Group	Percentage of Final Grade
Module Discussion/Book Club Participation (10 at 4% each)	Individual	40%
Personal Reading Profile	Individual	10%
Book Reviews (2 @ 10% each)	Individual	20%
Lead Genre Book Group Discussion & Submit Summary	Group	15%
Genre Guide, Book Selections, Display Materials	Group	15%
Total		.100%

SUBMITTING ASSIGNMENTS

All assignments will be submitted via BlazeView.

LATE SUBMISSIONS, MISSED ASSIGNMENTS, & MAKE UP ASSIGNMENTS

In order for the class to remain “in sync” throughout the course, it is important for students to complete postings and responses on time. No assignments or quizzes will be accepted after the due date unless the instructor has granted permission for an extension before the due date.

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.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

VSU requires that you attend class in the first week. For this course the Introductions discussion board will be used to determine attendance. All course activities will be conducted through BlazeVIEW. 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 unless you are asked to contact the faculty member via VSU email. For other correspondence with 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>).

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 Interim Title IX Coordinator: Ms. Selenseia Holmes, 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

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

Helpful Links

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