George Mason University  
College of Education and Human Development  
Elementary Education

**ELED 258 Section A02**  
Children’s Literature for Teaching in Diverse Settings  
3 credits, Summer A 2020 (June 1 – July 1)  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 1:20-4:20  
Synchronous Online (June 1,3,8,10,15,17,22,24,29, July 1) Asynchronous Online (June 5, 12, 19, 26)

**Faculty**
Name: Lois Groth  
Office Hours: By Appointment  
Office Location: 1806 Thompson Hall  
Office Phone: 703-993-2139  
Email Address: lgroth@gmu.edu (weekday response within 36 hours)

**Recommended Prerequisite:**
C or better in ENGH 101

**University Catalog Course Description**
Introduces children's literature as a tool for working with children across a range of contexts, including early childhood and elementary classrooms. Explores multiple approaches and strategies for literature use in diverse settings with an eye towards format, genre, curricular connections, and overall utility.

**Course Overview**
This course broadly and deeply examines literature for children in preschool through Grade 6. The focus is on selecting and using appropriate books for children in a variety of diverse contexts including literature-based reading and content area instruction. In addition, students explore multiple instructional approaches and strategies for literature use in diverse settings.

**This course fulfills the Mason Core Literature requirement and addresses the following learning outcomes:**
1) Read for comprehension, detail and nuance  
3) Analyze the ways specific literary devices contribute to the meaning of texts  
4) Identify and evaluate the contribution of the social, political, historical, and cultural contexts in which literary text is produced

**Course Delivery Method**
This course will be delivered online (76% or more) using both synchronous and asynchronous formats via Blackboard Learning Management system (LMS) housed in the MyMason portal. You will log in to the Blackboard (Bb) course site using your Mason email name (everything before @masonlive.gmu.edu) and email password. The course site will be available on May 31, 2020. This course will also use a combination of Zoom, Blackboard Collaborate and google slides for synchronous online course delivery. Synchronous class sessions will include small/large group discussions and tasks, lecture, and student-led activities. A detailed schedule is included below.

**Under no circumstances, may candidates/students participate in online class sessions (either by phone or Internet) while operating motor vehicles. Further, as expected in a face-to-face class meeting, such online participation requires undivided attention to course content and communication.**

**Technical Requirements**
To participate in this course, students will need to satisfy the following technical requirements:  
1. High-speed Internet access with standard up-to-date browsers. To get a list of Blackboard's supported browsers see: [https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#supported-browsers](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Started/Browser_Support#supported-browsers)
2. To get a list of supported operating systems on different devices see: [https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_Starte...](https://help.blackboard.com/Learn/Student/Getting_STARTED/Browser_Support#tested-devices-and-operating-systems)

3. Students must maintain consistent and reliable access to their GMU email and Blackboard, as these are the official methods of communication for this course.

4. Students will need a headset microphone for use with the Blackboard Collaborate or other required web conferencing tool.

5. Students may be asked to create logins and passwords on supplemental websites and/or to download trial software to their computer or tablet as part of course requirements.

6. The following software plug-ins for PCs and Macs, respectively, are available for free download:

**Expectations**

1. **Course Week:** Our course week will begin on the day that our synchronous meetings take place as indicated on the Schedule of Classes.

2. **Log-in Frequency:** Students must actively check the course Blackboard site and their GMU email for communications from the instructor, class discussions, and/or access to course materials five times/week. In addition, students must log-in for all scheduled online synchronous meetings.

3. **Participation:** Students are expected to actively engage in all course activities throughout the semester, which includes viewing all course materials, completing course activities and assignments, and participating in course discussions and group interactions.

4. **Technical Competence:** Students are expected to demonstrate competence in the use of all course technology. Students who are struggling with technical components of the course are expected to seek assistance from the instructor and/or College or University technical services.

5. **Technical Issues:** Students should anticipate some technical difficulties during the semester and should, therefore, budget their time accordingly. Late work will not be accepted based on individual technical issues.

6. **Workload:** Please be aware that this course is not self-paced. Students are expected to meet specific deadlines and due dates listed in the **Class Schedule** section of this syllabus. It is the student’s responsibility to keep track of the weekly course schedule of topics, readings, activities and assignments due.

7. **Instructor Support:** Students may schedule a one-on-one meeting to discuss course requirements, content or other course-related issues. Those unable to come to a Mason campus can meet with the instructor via telephone or web conference. Students should email the instructor to schedule a one-on-one session, including their preferred meeting method and suggested dates/times.

8. **Netiquette:** The course environment is a collaborative space. Experience shows that even an innocent remark typed in the online environment can be misconstrued. Students must always re-read their responses carefully before posting them, so as others do not consider them as personal offenses. *Be positive in your approach with others and diplomatic in selecting your words.* Remember that you are not competing with classmates, but sharing information and learning from others. All faculty are similarly expected to be respectful in all communications.

9. **Accommodations:** Online learners who require effective accommodations to ensure accessibility must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services.

**Learner Outcomes or Objectives**

This course is designed to enable students to:

1. Read and comprehend the content of various kinds of children’s books with attention to detail, nuance, and literary qualities and literary devices (INTASC 4) (*Mason Core Literature Outcomes 1 and 3*)

2. Plan for meeting the needs of diverse classroom populations including disabilities, SES, ethnicities and race, gender, and linguistic diversity. (INTASC 1, 2, 3)

3. Integrate children’s literature across content areas (INTASC 1, 4, 5, 7)
4. Describe why learning communities and motivation are important and describe the major strategies for motivating students. (INTASC 1, 3, 5)
5. Identify genres in children’s literature and collect, read, and categorize books based on these genres (INTASC 3, 4, 5, 7)
6. Engage in book discussion to deepen knowledge about and appreciation of children’s literature in conjunction with language arts content standards and the historical and cultural contexts within which the literature is situated (INTASC 4, 5, 8) (Mason Core Literature Outcome 4)
7. Plan for and use various instructional strategies including presentation, direct instruction, concept teaching, cooperative learning, problem-based learning, and classroom discussion and adapt each to meet the needs of diverse students. (INTASC 8)

Professional Standards Upon completion of this course, students will have met the following professional standards:

INTASC (The Interstate Teacher Assessment & Support Consortium):
• Standard #1: Learner Development. The teacher understands how learners grow and develop, recognizing that patterns of learning and development vary individually within and across the cognitive, linguistic, social, emotional, and physical areas, and designs and implements developmentally appropriate and challenging learning experiences.
• Standard #2: Learning Differences. The teacher uses understanding of individual differences and diverse cultures and communities to ensure inclusive learning environments that enable each learner to meet high standards.
• Standard #3: Learning Environments. The teacher works with others to create environments that support individual and collaborative learning, and that encourage positive social interaction, active engagement in learning, and self-motivation.
• Standard #4: Content Knowledge. The teacher understands the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structures of the discipline(s) he or she teaches and creates learning experiences that make the discipline accessible and meaningful for learners to assure mastery of the content.
• Standard #5: Application of Content. The teacher understands how to connect concepts and use differing perspectives to engage learners in critical thinking, creativity, and collaborative problem solving related to authentic local and global issues.
• Standard #7: Planning for Instruction. The teacher plans instruction that supports every student in meeting rigorous learning goals by drawing upon knowledge of content areas, curriculum, cross-disciplinary skills, and pedagogy, as well as knowledge of learners and the community context.
• Standard #8: Instructional Strategies. The teacher understands and uses a variety of instructional strategies to encourage learners to develop deep understanding of content areas and their connections, and to build skills to apply knowledge in meaningful ways.

The Virginia State Teacher Education Licensure Regulations for Elementary Education:
• Standard 1: The use of differentiated instruction and flexible groupings to meet the needs of learners at different stages of development, abilities, and achievement.
• Standard 2: The use of appropriate methods, including direct instruction, to help learners develop knowledge and basic skills, sustain intellectual curiosity, and problem solve.
• Standard 3: The ability to utilize effective classroom management skills through methods that will build responsibility and self-discipline and maintain a positive learning environment.
• Standard 4: A commitment to professional growth and development through reflection, collaboration, and continuous learning.
• Standard 5: The ability to use computer technology as a tool for teaching, learning, research, and communication.

Required Texts and Other Materials

Additional required readings will be posted on Blackboard.

Recommended Texts

Course Performance Evaluation

**All assignments are to be completed by the date listed in the syllabus. Written work will not be accepted after the due date unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor.**

Assignment and/or Evaluations:

**Self as Reader (10 points) – submitted via Blackboard  DUE June 4th**

Our reading identity is formed over time as we choose and experience books to read. Selections may be based on our interests, preferences, academics, and biases. What we read shapes our thinking, perceptions, beliefs, and responses. Books fill our needs, teach us, and impact who we become.

- This assignment is designed to help us consider the powerful role literature can play in shaping young readers’ identities by focusing on the young person we are most familiar with: ourselves.
- What book or books did you read as a child or young adolescent that helped you love reading? What made the book such a positive experience? Was there a particular character you identified with, a character you loved to hate, a book you didn’t want to stop reading?
- Select one of the following activities from your reading life and write an essay:
  - Create a timeline of your history of reading- What reading experiences have been most influential in your life? How were you encouraged and discouraged to become a reader? What does the timeline reveal about your reading identity? What did you learn about yourself by creating your timeline?
  - Reread a book that you first read as a child or young adolescent. Begin your essay with 1-2 paragraph summary of the book, then develop your essay juxtaposing your identity and experience reading this book as a child or young adolescent with your identity and experience reading this book as an adult. What motivated you to read the book? What did you find most engaging about the book?
- Write a 3-4 page essay describing your timeline experiences or the book. Your essay should be personal, insightful, and should build a strong emotional response in your reader. This assignment is intended to be a personal and reflective piece rather than an academic or scholarly essay.

**Book Analysis File (BAF) (30 points) – submitted via Blackboard  Due dates listed below**

- You will create a bibliography of different genres of children’s literature.
- You will include 1 book per genre:
  - Concept due June 5th
  - Traditional Literature: Fables/folklore due June 12th
  - Biography/autobiography and Nonfiction/informational due June 12th (**in class)**
  - Historical fiction (chapter book) due June 19th
  - Poetry due June 19th (**in class)**
  - Fantasy/Science Fiction due June 22nd (**in class)**
  - Post Modern Fantasy due June 24th (**in class)**
  - Contemporary realistic fiction (chapter book) due June 26th
- You will have a total of 8 genres and 8 books.
- Portions of this assignment will be submitted across the term.

Include the following information in your analysis for each book:

1. Author, publication year, title, publisher (APA format)
2. Format & length of book
3. Book summary and critical evaluation. Include information regarding the specific literary qualities employed in the book. Critique using criteria specific to the genre. Identify and evaluate the contribution
of the social, political, historical, and cultural contexts in which the text is produced. This must be your own original work.

4. Book awards (if applicable)

**Author Study (20 points) – submitted via Blackboard**

**DUE July 1st**

- You will select and research a children’s author of picture books (who has written at least 5).
- You will closely read at least three of the author’s works and analyze them for themes, content, and connections to classroom use, comparing titles through a critical literacy lens in order to examine:
  - How the author’s craft has evolved over time
  - Variations of themes/content in the books
- Include a discussion of the contribution of the author’s use of specific literacy devices to contribute to the text’s meaning. Include a discussion of the social, political, historical, and cultural contexts in which the author’s work is produced, and how those contexts impact the potential for classroom use.
- You will submit a written paper (5-7 pages) describing findings, plus a bibliography of the books included in the analysis. In the case of author-illustrators such as Jan Brett, you will analyze illustrations and text together to note recurring motifs and artistic style along with themes, and content.

**Other Requirements:**

1. **Ongoing Participation & Literature Circle (40%)**

It is expected that you attend all synchronous and asynchronous online meetings outlined within the syllabus. Absence from class to observe a religious holiday, to serve jury duty, or to participate in required military service, and medical emergencies are exceptions to the above policy. If you anticipate being absent for any of these reasons, please make arrangements at least 48 hours in advance. In addition, you are expected to be on time to class unless 48 hours advance notice has been provided to the instructor.

This course operates with the assumption that knowledge is socially constructed and the most meaningful learning opportunities are those where you have the opportunity to offer and explore diverse perspectives with peers; therefore, you are expected to contribute to synchronous and asynchronous online discussions and activities as well as genuinely listen to peers as they do the same. In addition, you are expected to be prepared for each class, which means having completed all assigned readings and tasks for that class.

Your participation includes completion of all synchronous and asynchronous application activities. You will reflect on and self-assess your participation following each class session. You will keep a participation journal where you will complete an exit ticket at the end of each class. This will include completion of the rubric and a narrative explanation and reflection on the class using the following prompts:

1) My level of participation this class was…
2) A goal for next class is…
3) A question I have is…

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Participation/Attendance</th>
<th>Unsatisfactory (0 pts)</th>
<th>Basic (1 pts)</th>
<th>Proficient (2 pts)</th>
<th>Distinguished (3 pts)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Absent from class.</td>
<td>The student is significantly late and/or is not prepared for class. The student does not actively participate in discussions.</td>
<td>The student is on time and generally prepared for class discussions. The student participates to an extent in group and class discussions.</td>
<td>The student is punctual and prepared for class. The student actively participates and supports the members of the learning group and the members of the class.</td>
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</table>
As part of this class, you will participate in a literature circle with a group of peers in class (May 24th). You will select titles from historical fiction, contemporary realistic fiction, and modern fantasy genres. A list will be provided in class. You will work through the various roles and responsibilities typically enacted by upper elementary students. The object of this activity is to learn firsthand how literature can be shared among students in order to promote reading engagement and motivation, fluency, and comprehension with attention and discussion devoted to literary devices, aspects of author language use (writer’s craft), and contextual elements needed for comprehension.

2. Work Timeliness Expectations

All assignments are to be completed by the date listed in the syllabus. Written work will not be accepted after the due date unless prior arrangements have been made with the instructor. All assignments must be submitted by 11:59 pm on the due date stated within the syllabus (see below) and should be submitted in the format indicated by the instructor in class.

All written papers are expected to be double-spaced, with 1” margins, and in 12-point font (Times New Roman, Calibri, or Arial). APA format is expected. If you do not have a 7th Edition APA manual, the OWL at Purdue is an excellent resource. [http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/](http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/)

Please Note: The GMU Writing Center offers online support via email. They will provide feedback on your writing within one hour. Graduate and professional writing can be difficult; I encourage you to take advantage of this service. [http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/?page_id=177](http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/?page_id=177)

Note: I reserve the right to add, alter, or omit any assignment as necessary during the course of the semester. You will always receive advanced notice of any modifications.

Course Performance Evaluation Weighting: ELED 358

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Outcomes</th>
<th>Requirements &amp; Assignments</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1-7</td>
<td>Participation/Literature Circles</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>Ongoing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,3,4,5,6,7</td>
<td>Self as Reader</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>June 4th</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,2,3,5,6,7</td>
<td>Book Analysis File</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>June 12th, 19th, 26th</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,2,3,5,6,7</td>
<td>Final paper - Author Study</td>
<td>20 points</td>
<td>July 1st</td>
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- **Grading**

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>95-100</td>
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<td>A-</td>
<td>90-94</td>
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<td>B+</td>
<td>88-89</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83-87</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<td>C+</td>
<td>78-79</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>73-77</td>
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<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
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<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
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*Remember: A course grade of “C” is not satisfactory for an initial licensure course.*

Professional Dispositions
See [https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/polices-procedures/](https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/polices-procedures/)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Session</th>
<th>Readings, Activities, and Assignments (DUE BEFORE CLASS)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>June 1st Monday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Synchronous</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1:20–4:20</td>
<td><strong>READ:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Building community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• History of Children’s Literature</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Text formats</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Literary Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WATCH/DO/DUE:</strong></td>
<td>• DO Participation Journal DUE</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• TEXT: Chapters 1, 2 &amp; 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>June 3rd Wednesday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Synchronous</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:20–4:20</td>
<td><strong>READ:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Building Community</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Anatomy of a Picture Book</td>
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<td>• Analyzing Illustrations</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Concept books</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WATCH/DO/DUE:</strong></td>
<td>• DO Participation Journal DUE</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Self As Reader DUE tomorrow, JUNE 4th</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>June 5th Friday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Asynchronous</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>3 hours</td>
<td><strong>READ:</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• TEXT: Chapters 4 &amp; 5</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>WATCH/DO/DUE:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Concept BAF DUE</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• DO Analyzing Picture Books module</td>
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<td><strong>June 8th Monday</strong></td>
<td><strong>Synchronous</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>1:20–4:20</td>
<td><strong>READ:</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• TEXT: Chapter 9</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• BLACKBOARD</td>
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<td>• Gender article: ERIC Digest</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Gender article: The Guardian</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>WATCH/DO/DUE:</strong></td>
<td>• DO Participation Journal DUE</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date</td>
<td>Time</td>
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| June 10th Wednesday | 1:20-4:20     | Synchronous | Historical Fiction  
• Identifying & evaluating social, political, historical, & cultural contexts in which texts are produced | READ:  
• BLACKBOARD  
• Kote K Children’s Literature Blog  
• Historiamag.com  
• scholastic.com  
• uncoverthepast.org  

WATCH/DO/DUE:  
• DO Participation Journal DUE |
| June 12th Friday  | 3 hours       | Asynchronous | Non-fiction / Informational Text  
• Biography/Autobiography | READ:  
• TEXT: Chapter 11  

WATCH/DO/DUE:  
• Traditional BAF DUE  
• DO Nonfiction module and Biography Module  
• Non-fiction/Biography/Autobiography BAF DUE **in class |
| June 15th Monday | 1:20-4:20     | Synchronous | Multicultural texts  
• Identifying & evaluating social, political, historical, & cultural contexts in which multicultural texts are produced | READ:  
• BLACKBOARD  
• Political article: CEI.org blog  
• Social Justice articles:  
• Rudine Sims Bishop article  
• Socialjusticebooks.com  
• Middleweb.org  

WATCH/DO/DUE:  
• DO Participation Journal DUE |
| June 17th Wednesday | 1:20-4:20    | Synchronous | Contemporary Realistic Fiction  
• Identifying & evaluating social, political & cultural contexts in which contemporary realistic texts are produced | READ:  
• BLACKBOARD  
• Kote K Children’s Literature blog  
• Pen and Pad Website  

WATCH/DO/DUE:  
• DO Participation Journal DUE |
| June 19th Friday  | 3 hours       | Asynchronous | Poetry  
• Challenged and Banned Books | READ:  
• TEXT  
• Chapters 10 & 12  

WATCH/DO/DUE:  
• DO Poetry/Challenged Books Module  
• Poetry BAF DUE **in class  
• Historical fiction BAF DUE |
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Class Session</th>
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</thead>
</table>
| **June 22**nd Monday 1:20–4:20 **Synchronous** | **READ:**  
| • Fantasy | o BLACKBOARD  
| • Science Fiction | o 2 Culture Articles  
| • Identifying & evaluating social, political & cultural contexts in which fantasy/science-fiction texts are produced | o Scisdata.com  
| o FromThemixedupfiles.com | **WATCH/DO/DUE:**  
| • DO Participation Journal DUE | • Fantasy/Science Fiction BAF **in class** |
| **June 24**th Wednesday 1:20–4:20 **Synchronous** | **READ:**  
| • Post-modern fantasy | o BLACKBOARD:  
| • Identifying & evaluating social, political & cultural contexts in which post-modern fantasy texts are produced | o Swaggerty, “That just really knocks me out”  
| | o Critical Lit: [https://wiobyrne.com/critical-literacy/](https://wiobyrne.com/critical-literacy/) | **WATCH/DO/DUE:**  
| • DO Participation Journal DUE | • Post Modern BAF DUE **in class** |
| **June 26**th Friday 3 hours **Asynchronous** | **READ:**  
| • Author study work session | • TEXT: Picture books by choice author |
| **June 29**th Monday 1:20–4:20 **Synchronous** | **READ:**  
| • Book Awards | • TEXT:  
| • Interactive Read Aloud | o Review Chapter 4  
| | o Read Chapter 6 pp. 169-198 | • BLACKBOARD:  
| | | Parsons, “Interactive reading is a SNAP”  
| **WATCH/DO/DUE:** | • DO Participation Journal DUE |
| **July 1**st Wednesday 1:20–4:20 **Synchronous** | **WATCH/DO/DUE:**  
| • Author study share | • DO Participation Journal DUE  
| • Wrapping up the course | • Author Study DUE |

Note: Faculty reserves the right to alter the schedule as necessary, with notification to students.
Core Values Commitment

The College of Education and Human Development is committed to collaboration, ethical leadership, innovation, research-based practice, and social justice. Students are expected to adhere to these principles: http://cehd.gmu.edu/values/.

GMU Policies and Resources for Students

Policies

· Students must adhere to the guidelines of the Mason Honor Code (see https://catalog.gmu.edu/policies/honor-code-system/).

· Students must follow the university policy for Responsible Use of Computing (see https://universitypolicy.gmu.edu/policies/responsible-use-of-computing/).

· Students are responsible for the content of university communications sent to their Mason email account and are required to activate their account and check it regularly. All communication from the university, college, school, and program will be sent to students solely through their Mason email account.

· Students with disabilities who seek accommodations in a course must be registered with George Mason University Disability Services. Approved accommodations will begin at the time the written letter from Disability Services is received by the instructor (see https://ds.gmu.edu/).

· Students must silence all sound emitting devices during class unless otherwise authorized by the instructor.

Campus Resources

· Support for submission of assignments to Tk20 should be directed to tk20help@gmu.edu or https://cehd.gmu.edu/aero/tk20. Questions or concerns regarding use of Blackboard should be directed to https://its.gmu.edu/knowledge-base/blackboard-instructional-technology-support-for-students/.

· For information on student support resources on campus, see https://ctfe.gmu.edu/teaching/student-support-resources-on-campus.

Notice of mandatory reporting of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking:

As a faculty member, I am designated as a “Responsible Employee,” and must report all disclosures of sexual assault, interpersonal violence, and stalking to Mason’s Title IX Coordinator per University Policy 1202. If you wish to speak with someone confidentially, please contact one of Mason’s confidential resources, such as Student Support and Advocacy Center (SSAC) at 703-380-1434 or Counseling and Psychological Services (CAPS) at 703-993-2380. You may also seek assistance from Mason’s Title IX Coordinator by calling 703-993-8730, or emailing titleix@gmu.edu.

For additional information on the College of Education and Human Development, please visit our website https://cehd.gmu.edu/students/.