The Catholic University of America  
School of Library and Information Science  
LSC 848: Media for Children  
Fall 2012

Kimberly Olinger Ritter  
Email: kritter@fcps1.org  
dkritter87@comcast.net  
(h) 540.349.4324  
(w) 540.422.7349  
(cell) 540.270.2770**

**My cell phone will NOT work in my school library, so use work number M-F 7am-3pm

Course Description: This course focuses upon the study of various multimedia and genres of literature for children with an emphasis on criteria for selecting and interpreting quality material for children who are at different developmental and reading levels.

Course Objectives:  
Upon successful completion of this course, students are expected to be able to:
1. Promote an understanding of the interests and needs of children
2. Survey materials, authors and illustrators of interest to children through reading and viewing analysis
3. Identify and use selection criteria and resources which relate to literature for children
4. Identify and discuss issues and trends in children's literature
5. Introduce students to a variety of aids and techniques for broadening and deepening children's response to literature in elementary and middle schools.

Instructional Methods: Classes will be a blend of online instruction via Blackboard and in-class instruction at CUA on September 8, October 13, November 3, and December 1. Class sessions will be divided between whole group lectures and discussions, student presentations, Socratic seminar, and small group sharing activities.

Required Texts:  
- A large variety of other works by various children's authors and illustrators which will be primarily student selected

Required Technologies: In addition to standard technologies, students will utilize Blackboard and its communication tools regularly. Additionally, students will utilize a tool for the booktrailer such as Animoto, Prezi, YouTube, Photostory or MovieMaker.

Libraries: The CUA Libraries' wide range of resources and services, including databases, online journals, and FAQs are on the main web site. For assistance on papers and assignments, consult the research guides or schedule an appointment with a subject librarian.
Assignments:

1. **Weekly Discussions or Responses**: Each week students will either engage in prompt-initiated conversation related to the week's topic, a common reading, or a related issue in a blog on Blackboard. These Weekly Discussions/Responses are worth 20% of your grade.

2. **Visual Interpretive Analysis**: Children's picture books have the added dimension of illustrations to create an integrated work of art. The success of the work, then, is the interplay between the story and the illustrations. While we react to both, illustrations often are overlooked when it comes to critical response. Following the guidelines discussed in Horning's text, pages 100-120, and in Picture This (Bang), you will examine and critique the illustrations in a picture book in a 2-3 page paper. You may select any title from the Caldecott Medal winners and honor books or a title that was also honored with a Coretta Scott King (for Illustrations) recognition. This will be due September 30.

   The Visual Interpretive Analysis is worth 10% of your grade.

3. **Socratic Seminar**: Students will participate in a Socratic Seminar focusing on the contributions of a current children's author who has made significant contributions to children's literature. The seminar will be held during class on November 3.

   The Socratic Seminar is worth 15% of your grade.

4. **Digital Storyboard/Book Trailers**: Digital storyboarding and booktrailers are popular formats for promoting children's literature. Each student will create a digital storyboard or a booktrailer for one of the books they read during this course and upload it onto the Discussion Board by November 18.

   The Book Trailer is worth 15% of your grade.

5. **Focused Author, Genre or Illustrator Study Project**: In groups, create a focused study project around a broad theme or topic that highlights an interpersonal issue, social justice concern, or an issue that has a direct connection to the lives of children. You can do an author study or an illustrator study if the author or illustrator has written 15 or more books that can be thematically connected. A genre study focuses on a specific genre of children's literature that can be thematically connected. Groups will utilize a wiki on Blackboard to create components (detailed later) of this project. Groups will present project at the last class meeting on December 1.

   This Study Project is worth 10% of your grade.

6. **Reading Journal**: As each student reads his/her way through the course, he/she will keep a reading journal that documents a number of things: random thoughts; critical analyses of literary elements significant to the work; connections to events, experiences, and other books; current events; suggested reading audiences, etc. The journal should be kept in an electronic format that can be delivered to the instructor by November 25.

   The Reading Journal is worth 15% of your grade.

7. **Exam**: The exam will be completed via Blackboard. The exam must be completed and submitted by midnight, December 5.

   The Exam is worth 10% of your grade.
8. **Attendance and Participation:** All students are expected to contribute to this community of learners by attending each scheduled class and being a positive participant in discussions, presentations, and projects. Less than perfect attendance and being unprepared for discussion will lower your final grade. Should an excused absence be necessary, the absence can be made up with an alternate activity. Contact instructor for details.

*Attendance and Participation are worth 5% of your grade.*

**Basis for Grading:** The following grading scale will be used:

- A 94-100
- A- 90-93
- B+ 86-89
- B 82-85
- B- 78-81
- C 70-77
- F Below 70

**University grades:** The University grading system is available at [http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad//gradesfull.cfm#II](http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad//gradesfull.cfm#II) for undergraduates and [http://policies.cua.edu/academicgrad//gradesfull.cfm#iii](http://policies.cua.edu/academicgrad//gradesfull.cfm#iii) for graduate students. Reports of grades in courses are available at the end of each term on [http://cardinalstation.cua.edu](http://cardinalstation.cua.edu).

**Academic honesty:** Academic honesty is expected of all CUA students. Faculty are required to initiate the imposition of sanctions when they find violations of academic honesty, such as plagiarism, improper use of a student’s own work, cheating, and fabrication. The following sanctions are presented in the University procedures related to Student Academic Dishonesty (from [http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrityprocedures.cfm](http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrityprocedures.cfm)):

"The presumed sanction for undergraduate students for academic dishonesty will be failure for the course. There may be circumstances, however, where, perhaps because of an undergraduate student’s past record, a more serious sanction, such as suspension or expulsion, would be appropriate. In the context of graduate studies, the expectations for academic honesty are greater, and therefore the presumed sanction for dishonesty is likely to be more severe, e.g., expulsion...In the more unusual case, mitigating circumstances may exist that would warrant a lesser sanction than the presumed sanction."

Please review the complete texts of the University policy and procedures regarding Student Academic Dishonesty, including requirements for appeals, at [http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrity.cfm](http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrity.cfm) and [http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrity.cfm](http://policies.cua.edu/academicundergrad/integrity.cfm).

**Accommodations for students with disabilities:** Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss specific needs. Please contact Disability Support Services (at 202 319-5211, room 207 Pryzbyla Center) to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. To read about the services and policies, please visit the website: [http://disabilitysupport.cua.edu](http://disabilitysupport.cua.edu).