

# Spring 2010 EDU/ENH291 Course Syllabus

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**Please sign and submit the syllabus acknowledgement form along with your Top Ten list.**

## Contact Information

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## About This Course

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EDU/ENH 291 is a review of folk and modern literature from a variety of world cultures including application of literary criteria to folk and modern literature for children.

### Course Competencies:

1. Compare and contrast children's and young adult multicultural literature in relation to the values of various world societies.
2. Describe the history and development of picture and illustrated books and the criteria for evaluating art and content.
3. Choose appropriate books for children at the beginning, intermediate, and advanced levels that reflect the diversity of our world.
4. Describe the function of picture books in education, and describe the function of picture books as an introduction to ideas and values with examples from the various world cultures.
5. Describe the types of folk tales and their distinctive elements.
6. Describe the social and psychological value of reading folk tales.
7. Describe the characteristics of fables and their use and values.
8. Apply literary criteria (plot, characterization settings, styles, point of view, theme, tone) to fiction for children.
9. Describe the importance of fantasy, folk tales, and fables in developing imagination and providing insights into the histories and values of diverse world cultures.
10. Describe the value of nursery rhymes as an introduction to poetry and as a basis for development of social, psychological values and linguistic values.
11. Describe the characteristics of nonsense verses.
12. Apply criteria for evaluation of narrative and lyric poetry for children.
13. Describe the importance of style and tone in historical writing for children.
14. Apply composition criteria (research, authenticity, and objectivity) for evaluating biography as history.
15. Describe the benefits for children in listening to stories.

## Class Format

With a few exceptions, we will devote one week to each basic category of children's literature. The unit will consist of assigned preparatory readings, the instructor's background lecture/class notes, and handouts or media presentations of the literature studied, student assignments, and sharing.

This is a dynamic and interactive class. Your reading stamina increases throughout this course. Our readings, handouts, and annotations focus on Children's Literature issues and trends. You are exposed to a variety of genres, which are selected and designed to increase your stamina, encourage you to become a versatile reader, and create scenarios that are conducive to exciting discussions.

Consequently, you are expected to bring these skills and attitudes to our class discussions:

- Willingness to discuss, read and write in a humanities/education class
- Willingness to accept the challenge of reading international genres and research concerning children's literature
- Willingness to participate in small and large group activities
- Willingness to listen with an open mind to the ideas and informed opinions of others
- Willingness to express ideas in clear, concise English

## Objectives and Requirements

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Below are examples of possible course assignments:

- Read and review one or more books in each genre we study.
- **NOTE: NO LATE ASSIGNMENTS are accepted.** (If you know you will be unavailable, make some other arrangement to submit reviews.)
- Create lessons and unit plans on genres and themes in children's literature.
- Complete individual writing assignments.
- Take a comprehensive final exam and/or create a final project.

**NOTE:** This is a 200 level course and quality counts. Format and English skills (grammar, usage, and mechanics) are part of all graded assignments, so take time to edit and revise your work. Students will use the **Modern Language Association (MLA)** documentation format.

## How to Succeed

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To be successful in EDU/ENH291, students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning. When in doubt about an assignment, students should seek help and ask questions of the instructor.

Good time management skills are essential to complete the course successfully. Students need to plan and follow a schedule to complete assignments on time. Clear due dates for assignments will be posted. **Students who fail to turn assignments in by the due date may be withdrawn from the course.**

## General Procedures and Policies

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In order to succeed in this class, you will also have to login/attend regularly, read the class materials carefully and promptly, keep to the class schedule by completing assignments on time, and take responsibility for your learning. You should set aside **at least 9 hours a week** for this class, spread throughout the week. All assignments are required, although not all writing may be graded; there is no extra credit and no makeup work.

- Attendance will be taken at every class. Excessive absences will result in a lower grade or withdrawal from the class. Students who are inactive for two weeks without notifying the instructor are dropped from the course for non-participation.
- Students are required to complete all assignments. Check the class schedule regularly for possible assignment and due date changes.
- Students are expected to **read instructions thoroughly** and carefully before submitting assignments. Failure to do so will result in lowered grades and there are no rewrites.
- Students not withdrawing from this course by the Records and Admissions mandated withdrawal deadlines will receive an "F" if they fail to complete the minimum requirements for this course. The instructor is **NOT** responsible for withdrawing students during the semester.
- Students with disabilities requiring special accommodation should inform the instructor and contact Disabled Student Resources at (623) 845-3080 to obtain assistance.
- Students should read the GCC Student Handbook. It discusses academic misconduct, which includes cheating and plagiarism. Infractions of the Student Code of Conduct are dealt with according to the Student Disciplinary Code in the GCC Student Handbook.
- Course content may vary to meet the needs of a particular group.

## Grading

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**To learn more about my grading process**, please see my explanation on line. The grading scale is the same as in most classes: A = 90-100; B = 80-89; C = 70-79; D = 60-69; F = 59 and lower.

## **Academic Integrity**

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### **Plagiarism**

Working with the ideas of others is a key element of this course. You will have multiple opportunities to practice various ways of finding, incorporating and documenting source materials, but that entails effort. Students who avoid this effort by **plagiarizing** (submitting the work of others as their own) are committing academic fraud. Plagiarism is stealing someone else's work and is a serious offense at GCC. Any student who fails to provide appropriate documentation will receive a "0" for that assignment.

**Any student found to have plagiarized by:**

- using substantial portions of someone's work,
- copying substantial portions of someone's work without documentation,
- leaving major paraphrase or summary undocumented, or
- having someone else write a substantial portion of the assignment

**and knew or should have known of the plagiarism can receive an "F" for the class.** Additional sanctions are in the Student Handbook. Also, please consult the Maricopa Community Colleges Policy on Plagiarism for more information.

### **GCC English Department Policy**

The GCC English department accepts its responsibility to foster student habits, which result in academic and professional success-regular attendance, promptness, and personal integrity. Therefore, we encourage our instructors to communicate these expectations by syllabus and in one-to-one conversations with students as necessary. When these expectations are not met, we support our colleagues who adhere to the following:

- Students who accumulate more than the equivalent of two weeks of unexcused absences are dropped. Dropped students are not reinstated.
- **Late work is not accepted.**
- Plagiarizing or cheating on minor assignments will result in a zero. **Plagiarizing or cheating on major assignments results in class failure.**
- Students who do not withdraw themselves by the student-initiated deadline are the grades they earn.
- Individual instructors may enact more severe penalties. On the other hand, realizing extraordinary circumstances do arise; exceptions may be made for students in communication with their instructors.

### **Questions?**

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If you have a question about this class, chances are that someone else has the same question and is too timid to ask it. Send all questions to me via e-mail. I am available -- by schedule, chance, and arrangement. The best way to contact me is by email. If you would like to talk on the telephone, let me know how to contact you. I check email on the weekends too. If these times and locations do not work for you, let me know and we can arrange something else.

**Do not call the English Department** with questions and concerns regarding this class; they cannot assist you with course materials and information. Please contact your instructor.

### **Other Important Stuff**

No textbook is required; however, you will be reading numerous children's books, so be sure you have a **validated GCC Student ID card (this is required!)** and a Glendale Public Library card.

All assignments and class materials are available from our ENH/EDU291 course website.

**URL:** <http://web.gccaz.edu/~rbarstac/291Fall08online/index.html>

Take time to explore our website. You will waste valuable time during the semester if you do not familiarize yourself with all of the information available through this website. Many links are provided that will assist you with your course work.

Find a friend in class and exchange email addresses and phone numbers.

Remember in order to avoid computer viruses, **I do not open e-mails incorrectly labeled.** All correspondence [e-mail] to your instructor MUST include:

your last name/course section number/assignment title

For example: jones8885topten

Grades are posted in Blackboard.

**ALWAYS, ALWAYS read and follow instructions.**

**HAVE FUN!!!** This is a course requirement.

Be aware that I grow very fond of you and may keep you around for more than one semester. ☺

Feel free to offer suggestions for improving the course.

Never be afraid to contact your instructor with any concerns you may have.

### **Possible Major Assignments**

Some of these may not apply to online students.

1. Book Reviews – Write book reviews for a variety of children's literature genre. These are assigned throughout the semester. Value: TBA
2. Book Talks – Give book talks to the class on books you are currently reading. Value: TBA
3. Create original books and poems to demonstrate your learning. You will design a Picture Book and a Poetry Book for a specific age group. Value: 100 points each.
4. Category Sampler – Design a flyer or poster to illustrate categories of Children's Literature. Compile a list of categories with examples, names, and characteristics for each category. Value: 50 points.
5. Storytelling – Tell a story to children in the GCC Children's Center. These stories may be those handed down through your families or may represent the classics in Children's Literature. Value: 50 points.
6. Program Design – Design a teaching unit plan that integrates your knowledge and skills into the classroom, play groups, tutoring sessions or other entities. Value: TBA
7. Group Teaching Presentation – Present a lesson to your peers on a particular genre or theme. Submit a thorough teaching lesson plan. Value: 150 points.
8. Final Project – Select a project from a variety of activities such as original books, brochures, PowerPoint presentations, essays, and more. Value: 150 – 200 points.

### **Support Services**

- The Writing Center provides free on-site half-hour appointments for help with a written assignment; the Electronic Writing Center provides similar assistance online.
- The GCC Library provides both walk-up and online assistance with reference questions.
- The Student Helpdesk provides assistance with technology-related questions. You can contact them by phone at (623) 845-3555 x 2, or by sending email to student-helpdesk@student.gc.maricopa.edu. Their website offers many troubleshooting documents that address the most frequently asked questions.
- If you are having problems with Word, Internet Explorer, or Outlook Express, use a computer in the High Tech Centers and ask for assistance from an Instructional Associate (just raise your hand!).
- Career Services can assist you with job-related questions and Financial Aid has information about paying for college. GCC provides free Academic Advisement and Counseling to help you make good academic and personal choices. Take advantage of their services.
- The Center for Learning provides free tutoring in most academic subjects on a weekly basis.

Please Note: This course syllabus is subject to change without notice and may vary from this outline to meet the needs of this particular group.