ORAL INTERPRETATION OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE
COMM4323/THEA4323/ENGL4370/ Meets 12 - 1:55 M - TH – Bay Hall 235
Phil Johnson 825-2361  Email  Philip.Johnson@tamucc.edu
Office Hrs 11- 11:50 M-Th and by appointment Bay Hall 321

Oral Interpretation of Children's Literature
The purpose of this course is primarily to investigate children's literature from the performance perspective and to identify and practice effective performance techniques. Students will also learn about the history of children's literature, and characteristics of contemporary children's literature in the United States. Students will learn about certain genres in children's literature. Students will learn and perform non-dramatic literature in the style of reader’s theatre for a group performance.

This course will focus on the following areas

1. Understanding children’s literature and the importance it plays in the development of children, and how it complements learning and cognitive abilities in early childhood
2. Understanding the various types of literature including: poetry, folk tales, myths and legends, and, literature including traditional and modern stories geared towards children
3. The techniques for creating an oral interpretation performance of literature for children, to be performed in the home, school or other location
4. The practice of performance of the various types and the discovery and deeper understanding of literature for children

Student Learning Outcomes
1. The Student will demonstrate knowledge about the different types of literature written specifically for children including; Poetry, Traditional and Folk Literature, and Modern Fantasy.
2. Students will demonstrate proper procedures of Oral Interpretation and its characteristics.
3. Students will perform the works of children's literature in the modes of poetry, short stories, novels and books written for children.
4. Students will be graded on their performances in the various types of children's literature.
5. Students will be graded on their knowledge of the theories and practices of oral interpretation of Children's literature in the form of 2 tests.

Text:
On Reserve 3-hour checkout. You may make copies.
The Scott, Foresman Anthology of Children's Literature, by Zena Sutherland & Myra Cohn Livingson- 2 copies
The Arbuthnot Anthology of Children's Literature, revised by Zena Sutherland.

**Attendance.** (As per student handbook)
At the beginning of each class the instructor will call roll or pass around a roll sheet. Students are to make sure they sign the sheet daily. Attendance in all theatre courses is critical to your success. For purposes of grading, no distinction will be made between excused and unexcused absences (excluding absences for recognized religious holidays, death in your family, doctor's excuse with documentation or approved university functions) your absence affects the progress of the entire class. Each absence in excess of two will lower your average a full letter grade. More than four absences will result in a failing grade for the course. Exceptions under extreme circumstances may be made at the discretion of the instructor. Children's Lit meets 4 days a week so the 2-absence rule will be applied. After 4 absences you will be asked to leave the class. Note: You must consult with your instructor immediately to make such an exception viable. Two late arrivals constitute one absence, if you arrive more than fifteen minutes late you will be considered absent. Time management skills are considered by the faculty as one of the most significant tools of the profession. The practice and development of these skills is expected.

**Academic Integrity**
Students are expected to do their own work. To claim another's work as one's own constitutes Plagiarism. Plagiarism would be the taking of someone else's writing, creative projects, electronic media or other assignments and turning it in as your own. Using someone else work as a template or splitting the work up between several individuals also falls under this category. Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Under university policy you can face severe consequences, which include probation or expulsion from the university. If you are found guilty of presenting someone else work as your own you will receive an F in the class and will be reported to the dean of students for further action.

**Missing and Late Work**
No late assignments are accepted. You are expected to perform on your assigned date. Failure to sign up for performances is not an excuse for not being prepared. Missed tests cannot be made up. If there are special circumstances you must make me aware of these at the earliest opportunity. Showing up to class not prepared is an excuse. If you are making excuses then you are not doing your job.

**Grade Appeal Process**
As stated in University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. If the problem cannot be resolved at this level, the student may take the steps below.
1. Presentation of grievance to instructor. (This step must be taken within fourteen
calendar days after the beginning of the next term.)

2. Appeal to department chair or area coordinator.
3. Written appeal to the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee.
4. Preliminary review and advising by an ombudsman appointed by the Provost.
5. Submission of file by department chair to the chair of the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee.
6. Review of file by committee chair and submission of case to committee.
7. Proceedings of the University Academic Standards Grievance Committee. (Committee holds hearing, reviews data, presents findings to all parties, and makes recommendation to Provost.)
8. Decision by Provost.
9. Final appeal in writing to the Provost if student or instructor thinks appropriate procedures have not been followed.

For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Rule 13.02.99.C2, Student Grade Appeals, and University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures. These documents are accessible through the University Rules Web site at http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.htm. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Office of Student Affairs.

**Academic Advising**

The College of Arts and Humanities requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. The Academic Advisor will set up a degree plan, which must be signed by the student, a faculty mentor, and the department chair. The College's Academic Advising Center is located in Driftwood #203E and can be reached at 825-3466.

**Students with disabilities and special needs**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights production for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact the Disability Services Office at (361) 825-5816 or visit the office in Driftwood 101.

All students are reminded of the University Counseling Service on Campus and the services it offers. Students can use the center and its services for free. If you are experiencing changes in your life due to added stress, personal or academic status or any other issue, which you feel overwhelmed by, please contact the center at (361) 825-2703 or walk in at Driftwood 107. Faculty members at this university will help you to contact the center if you need assistance.
GRADING.

PROJECT 1 100 PTS  A = 940 - 1000  
PROJECT 2 100 PTS  B = 880 - 939  
PROJECT 3 100 PTS  C = 820 - 879  
PROJECT 4 100 PTS  D = 760 - 819  
EXAM 1 100 PTS  F = 759 and below  
EXAM 2 100 PTS  
ATTENDANCE 400 PTS  

(Each absence counts as -100 points)

TOTAL 1000 pts

Schedule for the course

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity/Assignment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>4-Jun</td>
<td>Orientation / Demonstration</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>5-Jun</td>
<td>Discussion of Chapters 1,2,11</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>6-Jun</td>
<td>Poetry Demo work on selections</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>7-Jun</td>
<td>Poetry Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>11-Jun</td>
<td>Poetry Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Intro to Traditional Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>12-Jun</td>
<td>Chapters 4 - 6 read</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>13-Jun</td>
<td>Traditional Literature work</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Finish chapters and demo</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>14-Jun</td>
<td>Traditional Literature Performances</td>
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<td>Week 3</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>18-Jun</td>
<td>Traditional Literature Performances</td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>19-Jun</td>
<td>Review for exam 1 and prep for Modern Fantasy</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>20-Jun</td>
<td>Exam #1 Modern Fantasy</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>21-Jun</td>
<td>Modern Fantasy Chapters 7 - 10</td>
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<td>Week 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>25-Jun</td>
<td>Modern Fantasy Chapters 7 - 10 Continued</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>26-Jun</td>
<td>Modern Fantasy Performances</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>27-Jun</td>
<td>Modern Fantasy Performances</td>
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<td>15</td>
<td>28-Jun</td>
<td>Finish Modern Fantasy and work on Groups</td>
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<td>Week 5</td>
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<td>16</td>
<td>2-Jul</td>
<td>Review for exam 2 and work on Group Presentations</td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>3-Jul</td>
<td>Exam 2 and Work on final projects in class</td>
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<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>4-Jul</td>
<td>Holiday - No Class</td>
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<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>5-Jul</td>
<td>Rehearsals for final performances</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>6-Jul</td>
<td>Final Performances</td>
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</tbody>
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Check your grades via Blackboard  I will be posting your grades on blackboard. If you would like to discuss your progress in the course you may see me during office hours or call my extension 2361 and leave me a message for an appointment. I am available in the mornings before and after our class.

PERFORMANCES  You will be expected to schedule and follow the directions for each performance. Failure to follow the instructions will result in a failing grade for the presentation. You will not be allowed to make up a missed performance and will receive an F on the presentation. In cases of dire emergencies or special circumstances consideration may be given. The earlier I know about your situation the more likely I can make adjustments.

1. You will provide copies for the professor before you will be allowed to present.
2. Copies for your fellow students are a courtesy and are appreciated.
3. You will use approved sources for literature. Please do not use a Disney version.
4. You will select material from the specific genre for that performance.
5. If you have questions, please check with the instructor
6. Please be courteous to your fellow students and professor. Please do not enter the classroom during performance or presentation. Please wait for an appropriate interval to enter or exit.

ASSIGNMENTS  - 4 required performances

1. POETRY -(3 - 5 minutes including introductory comments) Poetry selections may come from Scott Foresman Anthology of Children's Literature (on reserve in library) or any poetry or poet mentioned in our text - chapter 11, or on pp 277 - 279

2. TRADITIONAL or FOLK LITERATURE (5 - 10 Minutes including introductions and a synopsis of the beginning or ending, if necessary) Selection may come for the Scott Foresman Anthology or List of Ten on pp. 148 or 150 in our text, or Her Stories by Virginia Hamilton or any other folk literature (folk tail, fairy tale, fable or legend) mentioned in our text chapter 6, EXCEPT for the literary folktales of Hans Christian Anderson which can be presented as modern fantasy

3. MODERN FANTASY (5 - 10 minutes including introduction) Selection may come from the Scott Foresman Anthology or from the List of 10 page 121, books mentioned in our TEXT Chapter 5 or listed on pp 131 - 133 or from class handout, _Additions to Modern Fantasy_

4. GROUP PERFORMANCE Time approximately 10 - 15 minutes. Selection will be from Poetry, Traditional or Folk Literature, or Modern Fantasy approved by the professor.
**Critique sheet rubric**
I will provide a guideline of grading criteria and specific outcomes for each project prior to each class presentation.

**EXAMS** There are 2 exams. The first is short answer, short essay and matching. The second exam is multiple choice. There will be a written and an oral review for each exam.

**NOTES** These documents are available online and will be given out in class

- Intro Notes What is Oral Interp
- Chap 1 Notes Children's Literature in Children's Lives
- Chap 2 Notes Children's Literature with Diverse Perspectives
- Chap 11 Notes Poetry
- Performance Techniques - A how to guide
- Chapter 4 Notes Picture Books
- Chapter 5 Modern Fantasy Notes
- Chap 6 Notes Traditional Fantasy
- Review for Test One
- Chapter 7 Notes Contemporary Realistic Fiction
- Chapter 8 Notes Historical Fiction
- Chapter 9 Notes Informational Books
- Chapter 10 Notes Biography and Autobiography
- Review for Test 2