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: These books are not available in the Bookstore but can be purchased online for a fraction of what they would cost in the bookstore

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


*Academic Integrity/Plagiarism*

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. (Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work.) In this class, academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in ( ).

*Dropping a Class*

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. ( ) is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

*Classroom/professional behavior*

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, as an academic community, requires that each individual respect the needs of others to study and learn in a peaceful atmosphere. Under Article III of the Student Code of Conduct, classroom behavior that interferes with either (a) the instructor’s ability to conduct the class or (b) the ability of other students to profit from the instructional program may be considered a breach of the peace and is subject to disciplinary sanction outlined in article VII of the Student Code of Conduct. Students engaging in unacceptable behavior may be instructed to leave the classroom. This prohibition applies to all instructional forums, including classrooms, electronic classrooms, labs, discussion groups, field trips, etc.

*Statement of Civility (can be in place of classroom/professional behavior)*

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people,
regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.

Graduation Appeals***

As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.01, Student Grade Appeal Procedures, 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. 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 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.html](http://www.tamucc.edu/provost/university_rules/index.html). For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught or the Office of the Provost.

Disabilities Accommodations***

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection 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 call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

Statement of Academic Continuity*

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane and classes could not be held on the campus of Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi; this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.
*Recommended by university, language provided that mirrors language used in other publications such as the student handbook or rules/procedures.

**Recommended by university, select one from the two items regarding behavior/civility or insert a similar statement based on your class needs.

**Required by SACS or HB2504—language must be included

**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 protection 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.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Points</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Project 1</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>A = 940 - 1000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project 2</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>B = 880 - 939</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project 3</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>C = 820 - 879</td>
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<tr>
<td>Project 4</td>
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<td>D = 760 - 819</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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(Each absence counts as -100 points)

**Schedule for the course**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Meeting #</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity/Assignment</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2-Jun</td>
<td>Orientation / Demonstration</td>
</tr>
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</table>
2 3-Jun Discussion of Chapters 1,2,11  
3 4-Jun Poetry Demo work on selections  
4 5-Jun Poetry Presentations  

Week 2  
4 9-Jun Poetry Presentations  
   Intro to Traditional  
5 10-Jun Literature Chapters 4 - 6 read  
6 11-Jun Traditional Literature work Finish chapters and demo  
7 12-Jun Traditional Literature Performances  

Week 3  
8 16-Jun Traditional Literature Performances  
9 17-Jun Review for exam 1 and prep for Modern Fantasy  
10 18-Jun Exam #1 Modern Fantasy  
11 19-Jun Modern Fantasy Chapters 7 - 10  

Week 4  
12 23-Jun Modern Fantasy Chapters 7 - 10 Continued  
13 24-Jun Modern Fantasy Performances  
14 25-Jun Modern Fantasy Performances  
15 26-Jun Finish Modern Fantasy and work on Groups  

Week 5  
16 30-Jun Review for exam 2 and work on Group Presentations  
17 1-Jul Exam 2 and Work on final projects in class  
18 2-Jul Rehearsals for final performances  
19 3-Jul Final Performances  
   4-Jul Independence Day Holiday  

**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://falcon.tamucc.edu/%7Ejohnson/childrenslit/
- 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