

Course Number & Name: LIS 481 - Children's Literature and Media Collections

Description: This course considers critical evaluation and selection of materials for children in public libraries and schools. Examination of the characteristics of major genres of children's books and non-print formats. Emphasis on evaluation of collections and the development of collection policies and procedures. Attention to the learning needs of children and to the impact of popular media, societal and teaching trends, and contemporary information technology.

- **Prerequisites:** None
- **Audience (level, environment/setting):** Introductory/ Public Libraries, School Library Media Centers

- **Student Learning Outcomes [by number]:** 2, 3, 4, 5, 9

- **Topics/List of Lectures:**

- I. Understanding the Reading, Viewing and Listening Needs of Children

- Current social trends related to childhood
 - Theories of cognitive and social development of children
 - Theories in the teaching of reading
 - Reading problems

- II. Evaluating and Selecting Materials for Children

- Introduction to basic selection tools
 - Trends in children's materials and collections
 - Elements of criticism and the use of reviews
 - The role of awards and lists
 - The requirements of state curriculum frameworks
 - Developing a collection philosophy
 - Developing and evaluating collections
 - Dealing with censorship

- III. Characteristics of Major Genres and Formats

- Picture books: artistic and literary components
 - Picture books: vehicles for concepts and information
 - Literary components of fiction
 - Non-fiction: the organization and presentation of information
 - Film and audio formats

- Children's magazines

IV. Identifying Materials to Satisfy Particular Needs

- Books for infants and toddlers
 - Books for beginning readers
 - Materials for children with visual, physical, and learning disabilities
 - Materials reflecting ethnic and cultural diversity and differing lifestyles
 - Reference materials for children
 - Guidance to parents, teachers, and other adults working with children
- **Suggested Textbooks/Readings**
 - Readings come from a wide variety of sources rather than a required textbook.
 - **Course History:**
 - December 2004: discussed at curriculum retreat; no vote needed
 - **Document prepared by:** Maggie Bush, 12/04