

**SCHOOL OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION STUDIES**  
**University of Alberta**

**LIS 519**

**INTRODUCTION TO CHILDREN'S LITERATURE**

**\*3 (Second term, 3-0-0)**

**INSTRUCTOR:** M. Mackey

**COURSE**  
**DESCRIPTION:**

An introduction to literature for children from infancy through the elementary school years. Principles of evaluation and selection will be developed, and current issues and trends will be examined.

**OBJECTIVES:**

To develop an appreciation of children's literature.

To develop a critical approach to children's literature, taking into consideration the current trends and issues in the field.

To develop familiarity with the body of literature available to children.

To discover and apply principles for the selection of books for children.

To become familiar with the relevant professional literature and the bibliographic aids in the field.

**CONTENT:**

General introduction to the field.

The criteria for the evaluation of children's literature and their application in selection. Bibliographic aids for selection.

Reading needs and interests of children.

The historic development of the field.

The literature: picture books; traditional literature; poetry; realistic fiction; historical fiction; fantasy; science fiction.

Current trends, issues, and problems.

**METHODS:**

Lectures, class discussions, films. Extensive reading and examination of works of children's literature and related background reading is necessary.

**COURSE**  
**RELATIONSHIPS:**

Prerequisite to 548.

**ASSIGNMENTS:**

An annotated bibliography of recent picture books for children on a particular theme.	25%
A paper comparing three versions of a fairy tale.	30%
A final paper, the topic to be chosen by the student and approved by the instructor.	30%
Class contribution.	15%