

CCY 3998 6.0: THE CHILD AND THE BOOK: CHILDREN'S LITERATURE RESEARCH METHODS

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES

Course Code

CCY 3998 6.0

Course Description

This course incorporates book history, childhood studies, literary analysis, and digital humanities methodologies in its exploration of the social and textual production of children's literature. Beginning with entrepreneurial printer and children's bookseller John Newbery's new methods of marketing to child readers and the "invention" of childhood as a post-Enlightenment project, this course will discuss the interconnections of philosophy, "the market" for books, the child in the age of industrialization, urbanization, capitalism, the archive, and the historical "register" of these dynamic material objects we call books. Using the Children's Literature Collection housed in the Clara Thomas Archive & Special Collections, in addition to a variety of local and international digital archives and special collections, this course will situate our explorations of "child" and "youth" characters and readers at the interstices of philosophy, cultural and material modes of production, and the forces of industrialization. Field Trips include The Osborne Collection (Toronto Public Library, Lillian Smith branch); The Fisher Rare Book Library (U of T, Robarts Library) and the Kelly Conservation Studio (U of T, Kelly Library).

Course Delivery

Delivery Mode: SEMR

Many of our classes will be held in the CTASC and this is also where you will conduct your independent research on children's books, using the materials in the special collections. Attending the seminar class on Wednesdays is the best way to ensure your engagement and understanding of the course content. **You cannot complete this course without regular attendance in class and on field trips.**

Course Materials

Resources on eClass.

Grenby, M.O. and Kimberley Reynolds. *Children's Literature Studies: A Research Handbook*. Palgrave MacMillan, 2011.

Nel, Phil, Lissa Paul and Nina Christensen, eds. *Keywords for Children's Literature, 2nd Edition*. NYU Press, 2021.

Reynolds, Kimberley. *Children's Literature: A Very Short Introduction*. Oxford UP, 2011.

Tentative Grade Breakdown and Deadlines

Assessment	Weight	Mode	Tentative Deadline
Researching Primary Sources	10%	In-person and online	November 2026
Reading Reflections and Commonplace book	30%	In-person	Weekly
Book Collecting Descriptive Bibliography	10%	In-person and online	January 2027
Miniature Book & Explication	15%	In-person	March 2027
Research Proposal and Presentation	25%	In-person and online	April 2027
In-class participation (activities and field trips)	10%	In-person	Weekly
	100%		