

# Courses in Children's Book Writing & Illustrating 2023-2024

Courses are offered on a variable rotation.

## **ART 523: CHILDREN'S BOOK PORTFOLIO (4)**

**Begin**

Students will continue to study a variety of contemporary children's book media and illustrators, and a few advanced techniques will be demonstrated to the class. Students will work on character development, composition and color design, with the aim of applying these in their medium of choice for a professional portfolio. Class time will include Power Point presentations, in-class demonstrations, review of books and resources, critique and discussion time.

*Prerequisites: ART 527 and ART 568.*

*\$75 supply fee*

## **ART 523S: CHILDREN'S BOOK PORTFOLIO STUDIO (2)**

**Begin**

Studio time will place an emphasis on hands-on exposure to more advanced approaches to image making. Students will focus on their medium of choice and create three to four finished illustrations for a professional portfolio, as well as designing a professional postcard and business card showcasing their best work. *Prerequisites: ART 527S and ART 568S.*

## **ART 527: INTRO TO CHILDREN'S BOOK MEDIA (4)**

**Wolff**

Today's book publishing technology allows for huge variety in approaches to illustration. In this introduction to children's book media, students will experiment with a range of media commonly used for children's book illustration, while learning to identify and analyze the media and styles of contemporary published illustrators. By the end of the term everyone will give a detailed analysis and presentation of a contemporary illustrator whose style and use of a medium is inspirational and potentially influential in the development of the student's own personal style and medium.

*\$75 supply fee*

## **ART 527S: INTRO TO CHILDREN'S BOOK MEDIA STUDIO (2)**

**Wolff**

Studio time will place an emphasis on hands-on exposure to color theory and basic media skills for creating picture books for children. Both black-and-white and color media will be covered, such as pen and ink, watercolor, gouache, scratchboard, colored pencil, collage, and an introduction to mixed media/digital techniques. Class time will include critique and discussion time.

## **ART 568: CHILDREN'S BOOK DRAWING FUNDAMENTALS (4)**

**Staff**

Drawing is the most important skill to develop in order to become a working children's book illustrator. Course will ground students in basic drawing skills as they first work on their powers of observation and the craft of drawing in light and shade. Through a variety of class exercises, the students will learn about form, value, texture, quality and styles of line, perspective, drawing architecture and interiors, drawing people, animals, nature, and landscapes. Students will work mainly in graphite pencil, charcoal, and pen and ink, and will explore drawing in a variety of styles, using perspective, exaggeration, and learning how to develop their own "signature" style. Drawing styles of a variety of published illustrators will be examined in detail. *\$75 supply fee*

## **ART 568S: CHILDREN'S BOOK DRAWING FUNDAMENTALS STUDIO (2)**

**Staff**

Studio time will place an emphasis on hands-on exposure to basic and more advanced drawing techniques. Every class will include critique and discussion time.

## **ART 578: CHILDREN'S BOOK DESIGN (4)**

**Staff**

This class will cover the theory and practice of 2-D design for children's book illustration, using both traditional and digital methods. The elements of successful design in a wide variety of published picture books and (some) graphic novels and illustrated novels will be examined.

Students will build on the skills they have developed in ART 527 and ART 568 in a variety of challenging exercises and assignments to solve problems of visual organization while considering the interplay of text and pictures. *Prerequisites: ART 527 and ART 568.* *\$75 supply fee*

**ART 578S: CHILDREN'S BOOK DESIGN STUDIO (2)****Staff**

Studio time will place an emphasis on hands-on exposure to basic and more advanced approaches to 2-D design. Every class will include critique and discussion time, and students will be expected to participate in critiques in a constructive manner. Perry Nodelman's *Words About Pictures* will be required reading, and students will be asked to do an in-depth presentation on the design of a picture book of their choice. *Prerequisites: ART 527S and ART 568S.*

**ENG 528: CHILDREN'S BOOK ILLUSTRATORS (4)****Phillips**

The role of art in children's literature; a survey of traditional and contemporary works emphasizing but not limited to the European and American tradition; an examination of how artists interpret and reinterpret the text.

**ENG 542: HISTORY AND CRITICISM OF CHILDREN'S LITERATURE (4)****Fraustino**

An introduction to British and American literature for children, from its roots in the oral tradition and medieval literature through 20<sup>th</sup>-century works. *Required for all students; offered every year.*

**ENG 550: SPECIAL TOPICS (4)****Department**

This interdisciplinary, team-taught course will extend our community discussion of the figure of the goddess in art, creative writing, and critical approaches to children's and young adult literature. May be taken for critical or creative credit.

**ENG 558: STUDIES IN MYTH AND FOLKTALE (4)****Department**

An examination of myths and folktales from diverse cultures and the ways in which they express and shape collective values. Geographical focus will vary (i.e., African Diaspora, Scandinavian, Celtic). Offered online spring 2022.

**ENG 560: THE CRAFT OF WRITING FOR CHILDREN (4)****Department**

Writing books for children and adolescents involves a two-fold trick. The author, usually an adult, must craft a narrative that convinces the reader that they have the authority to report on the authentic experiences of childhood and adolescence. Additionally, they must build a text, using techniques such as figurative language and sensory details, to create a fully realized world and satisfying story. We'll be examining the forms of several genres as well as age categories in order to uncover the tricks of the trade, and how to apply the same approaches in our own writing.

**ENG 561: GENRE STUDY IN THE CRAFT OF WRITING FOR CHILDREN (4) Ransom, Clayton, Sherman**

Study of a particular genre or theme, with subject matter varying from year to year. Offered every year. Offered online fall 2023.

**ENG 576: CRITICAL STUDIES IN FORM AND GENRE (4)****Martin**

Close analysis of a particular form or genre (e.g., picture books, poetry, young adult novels, historical fiction, science fiction). Students will apply critical approaches to academic essays about literature.

**ENG 577: GENDER STUDIES IN CHILDREN'S AND YOUNG ADULT LITERATURE (4)****Mills**

Literature for young readers is a powerful tool for examining how we acquire identities, including gender roles and the finding of selfhood. From the beginnings of children's literature to the present, some books have been concerned primarily with the maturation of boys and designed explicitly for a male reading audience, while others have been concerned with the maturation of girls and written primarily for them. Some genres, such as historical fiction, represent our culture's traditional gender divisions, while others, such as fantasy and science fiction, may reconceive them. Varying iterations of this course will explore in depth one or more aspects of gender and identities. Offered online Spring 2024.

**ENG 583: ADVANCED CREATIVE WRITING TUTORIAL (4)****Wyeth**

Graduate tutorial seminar in the generation, examination, and interpretation of texts in children's literature in the light of literary history and theory with attention to the writing of the students in the class. The exact contents of any given seminar will be determined by the needs and interests of its members. *Offered every year. Prerequisite – ENG/ART 527 and ENG 560 or 561.*

**ENG 597: CHILDREN'S LITERATURE GRADUATE INTERNSHIP (4)****Begin/Fraustino/Homzie**

This course provides experiential learning experiences through supervised internships in professional areas related to the academic study of children's literature, illustration, and culture. Through applied practice, students will become active participants in the diverse community of creators, publishers, sellers, sharers, and others who work with texts and images intended for children and young adults.

In order to receive graduate credit for internship, all students will be required to:

- Identify objectives for seeking an internship with a particular sponsor.
- Research the company or sponsor where interning and provide a paragraph on what the company does as it relates to student's objective.
- Document the experience of the internship in detail.
- Reflect on experience gained through the internship through a narrative essay.
- Present learning outcomes to advisor and share with other students through Moodle.

**ENG 599: THESIS (8)****Staff**

The thesis will consist of text and complete sketch dummies for either three picture books, two easy readers, one-chapter book, one illustrated novel, or one graphic novel, plus six finished illustrations, accompanied by a 10-15-page critical essay situating the student's creative work in the historical and critical context of children's literature.

**ENG 5XX:** Elective critical course related to the genre of the student's work (4)