

Kent State University  
Department of Teaching, Leadership, and Curriculum studies  
**MCED 4/50007-Teaching Reading with Children's Literature**  
**Fall 2012-online**

**Instructor: Dr. W.C. Kasten**  
**Office: 330-672-0637; 402 B**  
**Mail: 402 White Hall**  
[wkasten@kent.edu](mailto:wkasten@kent.edu)

**Texts:**  
**Kasten, W.C., Kristo, J.V. & McClure, A.A. (2005). Living Literature. Columbus, OH: Prentice-Hall/Merrill.**

**Selected novels, readings and viewings in online environment**

**Course Description:** To learn to use literature in the teaching of reading in middle school in effective and engaging ways.

**Course Objectives:**

- To understand how juvenile literature is organized and created.
- To select quality literature to support reading instruction and content area learning.
- To learn to implement literature circles and discovery circles in a variety of ways.
- To implement varied reading and writing strategies around texts.
- To learn the discourse of books and fiction and to use that discourse in critique.
- To learn to respond to literature in meaningful ways and to help cultivate response in middle school students.

**Our course follows the organizational pattern of your textbook. Each chapter in the textbook is also a module in Blackboard LEARN.**

**14 modules then are worth 5 points each, adding up to 70 points. Here are how the remaining points work:**

**Literature Circles** – You and your group will meet multiple times, either really or virtually, or any combination of these. You will be grouped based on your book selections. Upon each meeting someone will report and post minutes of your meeting (just one per meeting). Each member of the group maintains her own literature response blog on the LEARN discussion board. At the end of the book, the group creates a joint presentation which is submitted by the group.

**Meeting minutes = 2 points (combined)**

**Response Journal/blog = 5 points**

**Group presentation = 3 points**

**Diversity requirement-** As developing teachers, and in view of the mission of this college towards more diversity and international understanding, each class member will serve as a “conversation partner” for an international student at KSU or locally. You are free to make your own arrangement if you know of someone willing to meet with you during the semester. Otherwise, a partner will be obtained for you through international offices.

In this capacity, you meet with this individual regularly during the semester. Details about minimum meeting occasions are on the LEARN website for our class. All second language speakers need practice with native speakers for oral language. You can also add use of email or facebook exchanges.

You will be prepared, especially in the beginning to initiate topics, like family, school life, holidays, etc.

From this experience, you will learn about another culture, learn about our own odd English language through someone else’s eyes. These are all good teacher skills.

This activity running during the course is worth 5 points of the course total. You will be evaluated on your written reflection of the activity.

**Child/Student Needed** – In order to complete this course, you will need to obtain one student to work with during the semester. Assignments on several modules and especially for the Reading Aloud module need a student to execute your assignments. This individual can be of any school age. It would be great if they also struggle in reading. If you have a current field placement for another class, you can use a student at the site. It is your responsibility to obtain someone, but if you feel stuck, let your course instructor know to help you get started looking. You will need to be getting started around week 3.

**Professionalism and Participation (05 points). This course belongs to the middle childhood program. Guidelines are set for the program that include multiple areas of professionalism. These include:**

- **Protecting confidentiality of children who may have been used in the completion of assignments.**
- **Punctuality and attendance.**
- **Being collegial with other students and faculty at all times.**
- **Taking responsibility for course content, behavior in and outside of class as it relates to courses, knowledge of due dates, tests, and material covered in your absence.**

**Course policies:**

All assignments are word processed, in Microsoft WORD, and on-time. Students are responsible for handing in assignments in appropriate software, and taking care of conversions if needed.

Exceptions for due dates can be made for extenuating circumstances as long as communication takes place prior to the deadline (please make sure printer does not run out of ink at that time). The best manner for communication is email. Print and save any email communication that grants you an extension. Otherwise, one point per day is deducted. **BE SURE ASSIGNMENTS SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY HAVE BEEN DONE PROPERLY AND GONE THROUGH. COPY THESE TO YOURSELF TO HAVE DOCUMENTATION OF TIME SENT.**

Class sessions begin on time. More than one absence will likely effect course grade.

All students are responsible for all course content including class notes and announcements. Use Webct to check for announcements and changes, especially prior to class sessions. You must check webct for announcements and calendar reminders prior to class each week

Having and using library skills is an expectation. Visit your friendly KSU library and make use of resources and staff. It's their job to help you and they do it cheerfully.

All students are responsible to seek help if they are confused about assignments or expectations before assignments are due and before the end of the course.

All students needing accommodations from for any exceptionality are required to notify the instructor with an official letter at the first class meeting. This is a university policy.

All students are responsible to ensure their valid registration in this course. Be sure to check on yours. There are no retroactive adds if you attended a course you were not registered in. This is an EHHS policy.

All assignments in this course are completed in Microsoft WORD and submitted electronically on webct. This and other valuable software is available nominally to all KSU students at the bookstore. Computer labs are abundant around campus.

The edition of an assignment you post on webct or any email is the final copy. No multiple postings saying to ignore the earlier attachment. Be cautious before posting.

Electronic files submitted for assignments are named thus: Begin with your last name of a portion of your last name followed by the assignment name. Example: **Nelson lesson plans**

### **Reading/writing requirements for lesson plans:**

1. Evidence of appropriate reading experiences.
2. Evidence of appropriate, authentic, writing experiences.
3. Evidence of experiences being in line with best practices and learned society standards.
4. Evidence of teaching to diversity and multiple intelligences.
5. Evidence of oral language expressive opportunities.
6. Learning centers that support content and are authentic experiences.
7. **NO** published photocopied reproducibles as part of unit.
8. **The ODE Standards and the NCTE/IRA Standards that are met noted at the end of each lesson. (optional in this course)**
9. All lesson plans require an *objective; materials; procedure; and evaluation*. Objectives need **not** be behavioral; **objectives** should be congruent with **evaluation** which can be informal.
10. It is not expected that every lesson contains all aspects of the reading and writing goals mentioned above. Lessons are viewed as a whole group.

**Course/program area policies:**

- Professional behavior at all times.
- Professional attire in schools – clothing cannot be too short, too transparent, cannot show undergarments or midriff area skin when bending, sitting, reaching, kneeling, or stooping, etc. Dress must further conform to any school dress code where teaching is taking place.
- Promptness and attendance; more than one excused absence will likely influence grade; two tardies will result in lowering of class score. In an online course, this refers to your work with your group, getting assignments in on time, etc.
- One re-do per student per semester – see attached slip for directions.
- Late assignments are not excused unless instructor is notified 48 hours in advance by email. Extensions are obtained by email and response must be attached to assignments.
- If you don't understand something, it is your responsibility to ask questions before the due date.

**Re-Do Procedures:** Once, during the semester, if you received a poor evaluation on an assignment, you may re-do that assignment for up to 80% of the original credit. Reasons for re-doing may be insufficient understanding or misunderstanding but **not** because you failed to read the directions on the syllabus, and **not** because you are simply grade and point conscious. Cut and paste the coupon below. Fill it out and attach it to both the new and old assignment, and submit in one file. You need to submit it in the same place as the original assignment. Cannot be used during exam week or during last week of classes.

**Evaluation:**

14 Modules @ 5 points each = 70  
Professionalism =5  
Conversation partners = 5  
Literature circles = 10  
Final Exam = 10  
Total = 100 points

### **Titles for Literature Circles**

Titles for your literature circles are listed in  
LEARN

Due Dates – All due dates are posted in the course  
calendar. There are a few assignments with flexible  
due dates, because of the nature of the assignment.

Students can obtain books from the public library,  
through a bookseller, or using the Kent State  
library system. Many books are available reasonably  
from used booksellers.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ ss# \_\_\_\_\_

Assignment being resubmitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ signature \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Any students needing reasonable accommodations for medical or other related reasons should present KSU letter to professor first session of class.

***Students who are not officially registered for a course by published University deadlines are not eligible to attend class sessions or to receive credit or a grade for the course.***

**Professionalism – As you embark on the journey of your professional career, it is important to begin to make the transition from being a student to being a professional. Professionalism is as much an attitude as it is a mode of dress and behavior. Those with a professional attitude respect the right and opinions of all colleagues, display a willingness to collaborate and communicate, and approach their work with energy and enthusiasm. A professional attitude is expected at all times in field experiences and in classes.**

**Grading**

100-95%	A	79-75	C	(passing)
94-92	A-	74-72	C-	
91-90	B+	71-70	D+	
89-85	B	69-60	D	
84-82	B-	59% & below	F	
81-80	C+			

**Book Bistro – See instructions in LEARN for your literature circle group to hold a Book Bistro.**