



Children's Literature Certificate

www.ChildrensLit.Pitt.edu

Revised: 06/2017

Overview

Books written for children are among the best-loved and best-remembered of all works of literature. They also provide some of the most important early learning experiences. In recent years, books written for children have attracted increasing interest from scholars and students as well as parents, educators, publishers, and journalists. What kinds of stories do we consider appropriate for children, and why? How have our opinions about this topic changed over time and across different cultures? And how is literacy changing, now that children are exposed not only to books, films, and television, but also to video games and the Web?

This certificate program is designed to meet the individual student's interests and strengths and fulfills the Dietrich School requirement for a related area. The Children's Literature Certificate provides a useful background for many areas of professional work and study. Many of our students pursue careers in elementary, secondary, and special education, or in information science, childcare, or social work. Other students have gone to graduate school in the humanities (English, History, Film Studies) or social sciences (Sociology, Psychology, Anthropology). Recent graduates of our new Writing Youth Literature course have gone to internships at Sesame Street Productions and the Harvey Klinger Literary Agency in New York City.

Requirements

This certificate requires completion of at least 18 credits. The program director must be consulted about the design of the student's individual course of study.

Core courses

ENGLIT 0560 Children and Culture

ENGLIT 0562 Childhood's Books or ENGLIT 0655 Representing Adolescence

ENGLIT 1645 Critical Approaches to Children's Literature*

* This course serves as the capstone for the certificate and must be taken last.

Students are encouraged to take both ENGLIT 0562 and ENGLIT 0655, as either these courses can fulfill a Category 1 elective. Of these two courses, the course not taken as an elective must be taken as a core course.

In addition to the three core courses, students should design their own course of study to complete the remaining credits. At least one of these courses should be an approved humanities course, and one should be an approved social sciences course. The other third course can come from either category. Consult the program director for a list of approved courses.

Grade Requirements

A minimum GPA of 2.0 is required in each course that counts toward the certificate.

Satisfactory/No Credit Option

There is no limit to the number of courses that may be taken on the S/NC basis for this certificate.

Students interested in the certificate can find more information on the program's Web site, www.ChildrensLit.Pitt.edu.