

FREN*3170 Fictions of Childhood (0.5 cr)

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: This course will explore a number of masterful Francophone writers who wrote on childhood (Émile Ollivier, Joseph Zobel, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, Jules Verne, Gisèle Pineau, Éric-Emmanuel Schmidt, Patrick Chamoiseau). We will consider representations of children and vision of childhood in such genres as novel and autofiction. Throughout the semester, we will be tackling several questions. How did children's literature develop as a separate genre? What are the characteristics of the various types of writing for children? What are the ideological underpinnings of the books we give to children? What standards of morality do children learn from this literature? How does the children's literature address its dual audience: the child and the adult?

LEARNING OUTCOMES: By the end of this course, successful students will be able to:

- ✓ Evaluate works of children's literature in several genres
- ✓ Analyze literary texts in relation to a specific theme or issue
- ✓ Interpret and analyze texts critically to ascertain their explicit and implicit meaning(s), applying basic methods of literary theory
- ✓ Explore the complex dynamics between text and illustration in relation to children's literature
- ✓ Contextualize cultural products and texts historically and aesthetically to assess their continuing significance
- ✓ Express and share thoughtful, well supported critical arguments in written and verbal form about the theme and genre of children's literature using appropriate evidence from the texts on the reading list

PREREQUISITE: FREN*2520, FREN*2020, FREN*2060

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

Émile Ollivier, *Mille Eaux*, Gallimard, 1999.

Jules Verne, *Les Enfants du capitaine Grant* (1867), Le livre de poche [2005]

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *Le Petit Prince* (1943).

Joseph Zobel, *La rue cases-nègres*, Présence Africaine, 1974

Patrick Chamoiseau, *Une enfance créole, I. Antan d'enfance*, Hatier, 1990.

Gisèle Pineau, *L'exil selon Julia*, Stock, 1996

Éric-Emmanuel Schmitt, *Oscar et la dame rose*, Albin Michel, 2002.

METHOD OF PRESENTATION: lectures, power points presentations, discussions supported by textual evidence

synchronous and asynchronous presentations

1 hour synchronous session per week for power points presentations and lectures followed by discussion with students.

1 hour synchronous office hour during which students can ask questions about the course and their assignments

Other documents (video, PowerPoint presentations) will be posted on CourseLink for asynchronous consultation by students

METHOD OF EVALUATION

Oral presentation : 20

Writing of a short story on childhood : 30

Final exam : 50