

**Kent State University**  
**Department of Teaching, Leadership, & Curriculum Studies**

**Multicultural Voices in Children's and Young Adult Literature**  
**CI 67095 (Temporary number)**

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**Goal:** To explore culture and the resulting understanding of diversity through literature for youth and to become knowledgeable about integrating these notions into K-12 teaching and learning.

**Course Objectives:**

- To deepen student understanding of culture.
- To become conversant about books and authors of various cultures and nationalities.
- To understand ways to implement literature reflecting diversity into a classroom or other educational setting.

**Text:**

Currently there is no text which is a good match to this course. Frequent references will be made to-  
*Kasten, W.C. , Kristo, J.V. & McClure, A.A. (2005). Living Literature. Pearson Education*

Several chapters in Living Literature are related to this course. Students may need access to this text. Purchase is not required.

Other readings will be assigned in class or placed on e-reserve.

Note: This is a new course which has only been taught once. Thus some experimentation is appropriate as to trying out new things. Student feedback will be sought towards course development.

**Assignments:**

**Participation in reading, discussions, etc. (20)**

**Personal Text Set** – Each student will develop a data base of books they have read during the semester, together and separately. Each entry will contain the APA citation of the book, a brief, original summary, and three ideas for using the book with curriculum and teaching. The final text set should include at least 25 titles. Of these, 10 should be novels; 2 should be international books; 5 should be nonfiction; 1 should be poetry; all are literature reflecting diversity. **All selections should be new to the student.** At least 5 titles should be 2000 copyrights or newer. This assignment is shared with classmates by posting on webct, and handed in on webct email. (40)

**Deeper Understanding of Culture** – Because a goal of this course is to better understand cultural differences, each student will select a culture they know little about and research it in various ways: Include at least 3 authors and three titles from the culture; an understanding of the history and the beliefs of that culture. This is done to present to your classmates and teach them some of what you have learned. Final product is a report or a powerpoint. (20)

**A cultural experience** – Each student will find one cultural experience that would stretch their personal experiences. Some ideas (but not limited to):

- Attending the religious service of another faith.
- Befriending someone from another culture/country and getting to know them.
- Attending an event sponsored by the Read Center which focuses on a different culture or experience.
- Travel to a different culture, either through KSU or independently.

Report about your experience and what you learned about diversity in a posting on the webct discussion board. (10)

### **Authors assignment -**

Attendance to the Virginia Hamilton Conference in April OR an author study of a multicultural author. If you attend the conference, post your reflections on webct the bulletin board. If you choose an author study, you get to know one author whose work reflects diversity, including their background and works. Construct a presentation on powerpoint or a poster to present to your classmates. (10 points)

### **General Stuff**

All students are required to use technology as appropriate to the course. All software and support needed are readily available to you through the helpdesk at 672-help or helpdesk.kent.edu. Students need to check webct regularly and always prior to class sessions to mail and announcements.

This course will meet in multiple locations. Pay attention to the calendar and announcements.

The KSU library has two rooms devoted to Children's collections. The Rhineberger Room and the Marantz Collection, both located on Floor 3. Hours of operation for these rooms will be less extensive than regular library hours.

**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.**

**Students with disabilities are required to present notification of their needs the first class session; the student disabilities office on campus furnishes students with the needed letter to instructors detailing any accommodations needed.**