INFO 5410: Adult Materials and Reading Interests

Instructor Information
Name: Dr. Sarah A. Evans
Pronouns: she/her/hers
Email: sarah.evans@unt.edu
Phone Number: (940) 369-8102
Office Location: Discovery Park E295C

Teaching Assistant: Ziyad Alghamdi

Course Description, Structure, and Objectives
Course Description
Reading interests and behavior of adults, including younger and older adults. Selection and use of books and other materials for recreation and self-development. Adult programs and services, including reading guidance. Wide reading and use of literature and non-print materials in different fields.

There are no prerequisites for this course.

Course Structure
This course is taught exclusively online, through Canvas, and it is the student's responsibility to be able to access, and appropriately use, online materials and complete course requirements as assigned in the course schedule. Materials for this course are organized into weekly modules that begin on Mondays and end on Sundays. Assignments will be identified in the appropriate module with due dates given, and linked from the module with instructions. You should expect to devote at least 9 hours per week to the work for this course. Many of you have full-time commitments outside of your educational pursuit (job, families, etc.). Please plan and prepare accordingly.

Course Objectives
By the end of this course, students will be able to:

1. Knowledgably discuss the major genres of popular fiction and nonfiction aimed at adult readers for educational and recreational purposes.
2. Explore reader's advisory tools available to patrons and librarians
3. Evaluate adult literature for the purposes of making collection decisions, composing professional reviews, and advising potential readers.
4. Engage with professional colleagues to make sense of current trends and ongoing issues related to adult reading materials.
5. Create guides to a genre and subgenre for patrons and for librarians, including non-book media.
6. Plan a library program to meet the educational and recreational needs of a specific adult audience.

NOTE: Federal regulations state that students may apply only 3 fully-online semester credit hours (SCH) to the hours required for full-time status for F-1 Visa (PDF) holders. Full-time status for F-1 Visa students is 12 hours for undergraduates and 9 hours for graduate students.

How to Succeed in this Course

Instructor Office Hours: Course contact will be online. Please email within the Canvas course. Online office hours will be posted within the course website.

Communication Expectations

If you have questions about the course, the best place to go is the General Questions forum of the discussion board. Think of it as raising your hand to ask a clarifying question in the classroom. Your colleagues likely had the same question! We check this forum regularly, so you will get a response from myself or the teaching assistant. Also, be sure to check the course announcements regularly.

If you need to ask a personal question, first reach out via the Canvas inbox and I will do my best to respond within 24 hours. **Canvas is the preferred method of communication.** If for some reason you use email, I receive many messages, so I request that you include the following information in the subject line:

Course Number Students Last Name: Topic of the Email

You may also leave a message on my office phone number (940-369-8102) and I will respond within 48 hours. In urgent situations, you may use my mobile phone number (206-409-9573) for text messages or calls, but please use this sparingly.

In addition to office hours, I am also available by appointment for in person meetings, telephone calls, or video chats. My goal is to support you in your journey to the library profession, so please reach out as needed.

If you have not already done so, please subscribe to is-announce mailing list through https://lists.unt.edu/mailman/listinfo/is-announce. The Department uses this mailing list to distribute information relevant to our students, alumni, and friends, such as UNT announcements, departmental/college newsletters, and job postings for ALL our programs. This mailing list is automatically managed and is easy to subscribe and unsubscribe.

Teaching Philosophy

Great teaching comes with a commitment to learn, especially as students join in the spirit of co-learning. I believe the most effective teachers will always be those who want to motivate and guide students to recognize their own knowledge and skills and plan ways of expanding that knowledge. The activities in this course are designed to bring you into the librarian community of practice through the deliberation of relevant issues and the creation of practical products. As a teacher, I strive to create with you all a course experience that is **relational**, **respectful**, **real**, **reflective**, and **responsive**.

ADA Accommodation

The University of North Texas makes reasonable academic accommodation for students with disabilities. Students seeking reasonable accommodation must first register with the Office of Disability Access (ODA) to verify their eligibility. If a disability is verified, the ODA will provide you with a reasonable accommodation letter to be delivered to faculty to begin a private discussion regarding your specific needs in a course. You may request reasonable accommodations at any time; however, ODA notices of reasonable accommodation should be provided as early as possible in the semester to avoid any delay in implementation. Note that students must obtain a new letter of reasonable accommodation for every semester and must meet with each faculty member prior to implementation in each class. Students are strongly encouraged to deliver letters of reasonable accommodation during faculty office hours or by appointment. Faculty members have the authority to ask students to discuss such letters during their designated office hours to protect the privacy of the student. For

additional information, refer to the Office of Disability Access website (https://studentaffairs.unt.edu/office-disability-access). You may also contact ODA by phone at (940) 565-4323.

Academic Support Resources

UNT strives to offer you a high-quality education and a supportive environment, so you learn and grow. As a faculty member, I am committed to helping you be successful as a student. To learn more about campus resources and information on how you can be successful at UNT, go to unt.edu/success and explore unt.edu/wellness. To get all your enrollment and student financial-related questions answered, go to scrappysays.unt.edu.

Supporting Your Success and Creating an Inclusive Learning Environment

As members of the UNT community, we have all made a commitment to be part of an institution that respects and values the identities of the students and employees with whom we interact. In my courses, I ask that we each strive to follow the Principles of Engagement, created by our previous UNT Division of Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access.

UNT does not tolerate identity-based discrimination, harassment, and retaliation so we will work as a class to collaborate in ways that encourage inclusivity.

Rules of Engagement

Rules of engagement refer to the way students are expected to interact with each other and with their instructors. Here are some general guidelines:

- While the freedom to express yourself is a fundamental human right, any communication that utilizes cruel and derogatory language on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, or any other characteristic protected under applicable federal or state law will not be tolerated.
- Treat your instructor and classmates with respect in any communication online or face-to-face, even when their opinion differs from your own.
- Ask for and use the correct name and pronouns for your instructor and classmates.
- Speak from personal experiences. Use "I" statements to share thoughts and feelings. Try not to speak on behalf of groups or other individual's experiences.
- Use your critical thinking skills to challenge other people's ideas, instead of attacking individuals.
- Avoid using all caps while communicating digitally. This may be interpreted as "YELLING!"
- Be cautious when using humor or sarcasm in emails or discussion posts as tone can be difficult to interpret digitally.
- Avoid using "text-talk" unless explicitly permitted by your instructor.
- Proofread and fact-check your sources.
- Keep in mind that online posts can be permanent, so think first before you type.

See these Online Communication Tips (https://clear.unt.edu/online-communication-tips) for more information.

Required/Recommended Materials

Materials for this course include two required texts, two recommended texts, and supplementary materials, both required and optional, located in each module in the Canvas course. Additionally, you will be reading many

books this semester which you will self-select, guided by our texts and other reader's advisory tools. Remember, you do not have to BUY all the books – check out what is available at your local libraries!

The required and recommended texts are available for purchase from the [UNT bookstore](https://unt.bncollege.com/shop/unt/home) (https://unt.bncollege.com/shop/unt/home).

Required Texts
- Saricks, J. G., & Wyatt, N. (2019). *The Readers' Advisory Guide to Genre Fiction: Third Edition*. Chicago: American Library Association.
- Wyatt, N. (2007). *The reader's advisory guide to nonfiction*. Chicago: American Library Association.

Recommended Texts
- Moyer, J. E., & Stover, K. M. (2010). *The readers' advisory handbook*. Chicago: American Library Association.
- Lear, B. W. (2013). *Adult programs in the library*. Chicago: ALA Editions.

Technology Materials
This course has digital components. To fully participate in this class, students will need internet access to reference content on the Canvas Learning Management System and speakers or headphones, microphone, webcam, and Microsoft Office Suite. If circumstances change, you will be informed of other technical needs to access course content. Information on how to be successful in a digital learning environment can be found at [Learn Anywhere](https://online.unt.edu/learn) (https://online.unt.edu/learn).

Course Requirements/Schedule

NOTE: If you are taking this course as a PhD student, please contact me for an individual meeting to discuss your goals in taking this class. We will adjust the assignments to best match your research interests.

Calendar of Modules and Assignments
- Unless otherwise stated, all course work is due by 11:59pm CST on the last day of the weekend (Sunday)
- **Initial Canvas discussion and Flip posts must be made by Thursday at 11:59pm.**
- Major holidays indicated in date column with parenthesis.
- Readings Abbreviations
  - GF refers to *The Readers' Advisory Guide to Genre Fiction: Third Edition*
  - NF refers to *The Reader's Advisory Guide to Nonfiction*
  - RA refers to *The Readers' Advisory Handbook*
- Additional required and optional readings indicated on module pages in Canvas course site.

Wk	Dates	Module	Topic	Readings	Discussions	Activities
1	1/16 – 1/21	Course Introduction	Cracking the Spine: Welcome	GF: Intro; NF: Ch 1-2; Select articles listed in Canvas	Self-Introductions	Reflections on Reading
2	1/22 – 1/28 (World Religion Day; Tu Bishvat;	Fiction	The Critics' Darlings: Literary & International	GF: Ch 4; Select articles listed in Canvas;	Cultural Capital; Narrative Discussion #1	Log Title Check #1

			Mahayana New Year)			Opt. RA: Intro, Ch 5		
3	1/29 – 2/4	Fiction	In Our Time: Contemporary, including Adrenaline & Relationship	GF: Ch 1 & 9; Select articles listed in Canvas; Opt. RA: Ch 1 & 6	Diversity in Print; Narrative Discussion #2	Reader Interview #1
4	2/5 – 2/11 (Lunar New Year)	Fiction	Looking Back: Historical & Western	GF: Ch 7-8; Select articles listed in Canvas; Opt. RA: Ch 3 & 7	Finding the Treasure; Narrative Discussion #3	Log Title Check #2
5	2/12 – 2/18 (Mardi Gras; Ash Wednesday; Maha Shivratri)	Fiction	Overcoming Obstacles: Romance	GF: Ch 10; Select articles listed in Canvas Opt. RA: Ch 4 & 8	Reading Sensitivities; Narrative Discussion #4	Reader Interview #2
6	2/19 – 2/25 (President's Day; World Day of Social Justice; International Mother Language Day; Makha Bucha Day)	Fiction	Follow the Clues: Mystery & Suspense	GF: Ch 2-3; Select articles listed in Canvas Opt. RA: Ch 11 & 12	Genre Battles; Narrative Discussion #5	Log Title Check #3
7	2/26 – 3/3	Fiction	The Uncanny: Horror	GF: Ch 11; Select articles listed in Canvas; Opt. RA: Ch 10	Guiding the Browser; Narrative Discussion #6	Reader Interview #3
8	3/4 – 3/10 (International Women's Day; Ramadan)	Fiction	Magic Abounds: Fantasy	GF: Ch 6; Select articles listed in Canvas; Opt. RA: Ch 14	Beyond Print; Narrative Discussion #7	Short Book Review
Spring Break **3/11 – 3/17**						
9	3/18 – 3/24 (Nowruz; International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination;	Fiction	What If?: Science Fiction	GF: Ch 5; Select articles listed in Canvas; Opt. RA: Ch 18 & 20	Illiteracy and Aliteracy; Narrative Discussion #8	Medium Book Review

	Purim; Palm Sunday)					
10	3/25 – 3/31 (Holi; Good Friday; Easter)	Non-Fiction	Explaining the Universe: Science, Math, & Nature	NF: Ch 4; Select articles listed in Canvas; Opt. RA: Ch 13 & 15	Give Them Something to Talk About; Narrative Discussion #9	Long Book Review
11	4/1 – 4/7	Non-Fiction	How Did It Happen?: Sports & True Crime	NF: Ch 6-7; Select articles listed in Canvas; Opt. RA: Ch 2	New Adults; Narrative Discussion #10	Reader's Guide
12	4/8 – 4/14 (Eid al-Fitr; Vaisakhi)	Non-Fiction	Living the Dream: Travel & True Adventure	NF: Ch 8-9; Select articles listed in Canvas; Opt. RA: Ch 16 & 17	Give Them Something to Do; Narrative Discussion #11	Genre Study
13	4/15 – 4/21	Non-Fiction	Tell Me All About It: History, Biography, & Memoir	NF: Ch 5 & 10; Select articles listed in Canvas; Opt. RA: Ch 19	Serving Our Seniors; Narrative Discussion #12	Adult Program Plan
14	4/22 – 4/28 (Earth Day; Passover)	Non-Fiction	How Do I…?: Food & Cooking + General Non-Fiction	NF: Ch 3 & 11; Select articles listed in Canvas; Opt. RA: Ch 9	Making the Magic Last; Narrative Discussion #13	Connections Presentation
15	4/29 – 5/5 (Passover; May Day/Labor Day; Yom HaShoah)	Course Wrap-Up	Moving Forward	GF: Appendix; NF: Ch 12-13 & Appendices; Opt. RA: Ch 21-22	Well-Wishing	Materials Log; Reading Research Articles
16	5/6 - **5/10*** (Finals Week)					Reflections on Advising Readers; Extra Credit; (Optional) Revisions

*Note: This week's work concludes on a Friday, instead of the usual Sunday.

There are no examinations in this course.

Course Lectures

In this course, I will be preparing and holding Zoom lectures for most modules. These will be given during my optional Office Hours' time slots, and you are invited to join and ask questions live. I always enjoy a chance to talk with my students!

After the lecture, a link to the recording with closed captioning will be added to the Canvas shell on the Module page. Mostly in these lectures, I will be talking over some of the module topics we will be covering and discussing some specific books of value and other content. I am not planning to share the slides I use as a decorative backdrop, but I will cover the content fully. However, if you have a question about any of the book titles mentioned or need more information (such as the spelling of a foreign title, etc...) after reviewing the lecture and/or transcription, please feel free to ask about it in the General Questions discussion board.

Also, please be aware that this course contains some copyrighted material, (images of book covers, generally, and other content) the use of which has not been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. I have determined this to be "fair use" of the copyrighted material as referenced and provided for in section 107 of the US Copyright Law. If you wish to use any copyrighted material from this document for purposes of your own that go beyond fair use, you must obtain express permission from the copyright owner.

Emergency Notification & Procedures

UNT uses a system called Eagle Alert to quickly notify students with critical information in the event of an emergency (i.e., severe weather, campus closing, and health and public safety emergencies like chemical spills, fires, or violence). In the event of a university closure, the calendar is subject to change, as described in the Emergency Notifications and Procedures Policy (https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-049).

Assessing Your Work

Assignments Overview

Assignment	Points Possible	Percentage of Final Grade
Reflections on Reading	20 points	2%
Discussions • **Topic – 15 discussions @ 12 points each = 180** • **Short Narrative - 13 discussions @ 15 points each = 195**	375 points	37.5%
Log Title Checks – 3 @ 3 points each	9 points	0.9%
Reader Interviews – 3 @ 10 points each	30 points	3%
Book Reviews • **Short – 15 points** • **Medium – 20 points** • **Long – 25 points**	60 points	6%
Genre Study	40 points	4%
Reader's Guide	40 points	4%
Adult Program Plan	30 points	3%
Connections Presentation	50 points	5%
Materials Log – 30 items @ 10 points each	300 points	30%
Reading Research Articles – 2 articles @ 18 points each	36 points	3.6%
Reflections on Advising Readers	20 points	2%
TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE	*1000 POINTS*	*100%*

Final Grade Scale

A = 900-1000

B = 800-899

C = 700-799

D = 600-699

F = 500-599

Extra Credit

There are opportunities to collect extra credit during the course. For more information, see the assignment titled **Extra Credit** in the Canvas course.

Late Work

I understand that there will occasionally be extenuating circumstances that impact your ability to turn in an assignment on time. **I do accept late work up to the last day of instruction. Assignments not turned in at the time of grading will receive zero points. Your assignment score will be updated after you are able to submit.** Remember that keeping pace with the course will create the best learning experience for yourself and your classmates.

Instructor Responsibilities and Assignment Feedback

As your instructor, it is my responsibility to:

- Help you grow and learn as an information professional
- Provide clear instructions for projects and assignments
- Answer questions about assignments in a timely manner
- Identify additional resources as necessary
- Provide grading rubrics
- Review and update course content
- Ensure assignment feedback in a timely manner

For assignments turned in on-time, we strive to provide feedback within three days through Canvas. If the assignment is late, you will receive feedback at our convenience. Feedback on your work may take the form of an overall narrative comment, specific comments on particular areas of your work, both, or some other form. Grading rubrics, when used, will be provided with the assignment so that students may use them to assess their own work in advance of submission. If you are unsatisfied with your grade on an assignment, you may submit a revised version within a week of receiving feedback. **All assignments, revised or original, must be turned in by 11:59pm on the last day of class to receive credit.**

Assignment Policy

Assignments are due by 11:59pm Central Time by the date listed in the syllabus. You will submit all assignments through Canvas. Do not email assignments unless instructed otherwise.

All assignments are expected to conform to basic standards for scholarly writing. In this course, you are expected to follow American Psychological Association (APA) 7th edition manual of style in all of your reference and citation formatting for this course. Proper documentation of sources is the best defense against plagiarism.

When citing references (books, journal articles, and websites) in any assignment, you must adhere to the APA citation guidelines.

Every student in my class can improve by doing their own work and trying their hardest with access to appropriate resources. Students who use other people's work without citations will be violating UNT's Academic Integrity Policy. Please read and follow this important set of guidelines for your academic success (https://policy.unt.edu/policy/06-003). If you have questions about this, or any UNT policy, please email me or come discuss this with me during my office hours.

Attendance and Participation

Students are required to log into the course through Canvas daily to view class announcements, check grades, and complete assignments. Because this course involves collaboration, participation is essential to learning. Our project-based activities require you to be actively engaged in discussions and group work. It is important that you communicate with me, the instructor, prior to being absent from the course, so you and I can discuss and mitigate the impact of the absence on your attainment of course learning goals. Please inform me if you are unable to attend to course activities because you are ill.

Syllabus Change Policy

As the instructor, I reserve the right to make changes to this syllabus if needed. Notices will be posted in the course announcement section in advance of changes being made.

Copyright Notice

Some or all of the materials on this course website may be protected by copyright. Federal copyright law prohibits the reproduction, distribution, public performance, or public display of copyrighted materials without the expressed and written permission of the copyright owner, unless fair use or another exemption under copyright law applies.

The materials on this site are provided solely for the use of students enrolled in this course, and for purposes associated with this course; except for material that is unambiguously and unarguably in the public domain, these materials may not be retained or further disseminated.

Any students who use university equipment or services to access, copy, display, perform, or distribute copyrighted works (except as permitted under copyright law or specific license) will be subject to appropriate disciplinary action by the university as well as to those civil and criminal penalties provided by federal law.

UNT Policies

UNT keeps up-to-date policies, procedures, and services that guide and support you and your learning. You can access these policies on the Student Support Services & Policies page (https://clear.unt.edu/student-support-services-policies)