

LIS61095: International Children's Literature and  
Librarianship Summer2016



### Course Description

From its notoriety as home of the Vikings, to its current status as home of the happiest people in the world, Denmark is famous for Hamlet (who wasn't real, but his castle is), Søren Kierkegaard, Danish pastry, and leaders in architecture and design like Arne Jacobsen, Jørn Utzen, Georg Jensen, Bang & Olufsen, and Bjarne Ingels. But Denmark also has a long and solid tradition of cultural production for young people—just think of Hans Christian Andersen, Tivoli Gardens, and Legoland.

In this academically rigorous course on international cultural production for children, Denmark will serve as a case study for such, providing students with hands-on perspectives on international children's literature, librarianship, museums, and a view on how different cultures construct "childhood." The course is hybrid, combining online course delivery with face-to-face class time in Denmark. Some questions this class will address include: What does it mean to be a child in other countries compared to the US, and as a result, what sorts of issues face professionals working in cultural production for young people—from museums and libraries, to media industries such as publishing and film? How do those issues compare to ones faced by professionals in the United States? What is similar? What is different? What can we learn from another culture, and how will our new knowledge translate into ideas for practice in the US?

## General Schedule for Course

- Week 1 May 23-May 29: class meets online  
**Week 2 May 30-June 6: class meets online and in Denmark**  
**Week 3 June 7-June 12: class meets in Denmark**  
**Week 4 June 13-June 19: class meets in Denmark (and online)**  
Week 5 June 20-June 26: class meets online  
Week 6 June 27-July 3: class meets online  
Week 7 July 4-July 10: class meets online. Final work is due this week.  
Week 8 July 11-July 16: Grades are due this week.

## Overview

- This program is administered by SLIS faculty member Dr. Marianne Martens ([mmarten3@kent.edu](mailto:mmarten3@kent.edu)).
- This course is an intensive academic exploration into international children's literature and librarianship.
- This course is a master's level course. If you are interested in taking the course as an undergraduate or a doctoral student, please contact the instructor ([mmarten3@kent.edu](mailto:mmarten3@kent.edu)).
- The course runs for eight weeks total.
- All classes are Kent State University classes, earning Kent State University credit. Students should check whether courses will transfer or apply to degree requirements with their academic institutions. Kent State University is a fully accredited institution of higher education.
- Admission to the course is competitive. Students of graduate standing at Kent State or other U.S. graduate programs will qualify if they hold a GPA of 3.2 or above, have strong references and show a dedicated interest in international children's literature and librarianship. Your statement of application is important in the selection process. The application requires a well-written narrative explaining why you want to take this course and how it will benefit you. A selection committee will determine who will be admitted to the course.
- For two weeks on-site in Denmark, students will live in a youth hostel in central Copenhagen (<http://www.danhostel.dk/en/hostel/danhostel-copenhagen-city>). We will also spend two nights in a hotel near Viborg (<http://www.nielsbuggeskro.dk/cms/>).
- The arrival orientation and tours of the city cover academic, cultural and security issues, and provide practical advice for living in Denmark. Pre-orientation will also be provided.
- Class in Denmark will be held based on the following schedule (which is subject to change):
  - Arrival and orientation on June 4.
  - June 4-17, tours and seminars at sites including (for example) the Royal Library School, the International Animation Workshop, Rosinante Publishers and an independent children's bookseller, Helsingør (Hamlet's castle) and the ministry of culture, Danish children's libraries. We will also visit Tivoli gardens, take a ferry to Sweden, and visit several museums.
- Please note that some of the host country's museums, walkways and modes of transportation may not be accessible according to ADA standards. As such, course participants may be required to climb narrow and winding stairs, walk significant distances on cobbled streets and travel on buses, trains, etc., without accessible features. Note, too, that participants may be expected to stand for several hours at a time and do a lot of walking each day. Please contact Dr. Marianne Martens, course instructor, at [mmarten3@kent.edu](mailto:mmarten3@kent.edu) with any questions or concerns. Kent State University will endeavor to provide reasonable accommodations to individuals with disabilities interested in participating in this program. If you require accommodations for this program, please contact Student Accessibility Services (SAS) at 330-672-3391.

## Estimated Costs

Student Status	Application	Program Fee	Airfare	Tuition
Current KSU grad student	\$0	\$2,300	\$1,500 (approximate)	Current cost
KSU Alumni (reapplication)***	\$15	\$2,300	\$1,500 (approximate)	Current cost
Grad student from another university (transient)***	\$30 (approximate)	\$2,300	\$1,500 (approximate)	Current cost

Program Fee includes study abroad **Application Fee (\$60)**, housing, HTH medical insurance, entrance to museums, transportation to museums and lecturer fees. This fee is non-negotiable, **non-refundable** and required to hold your place in the course; it does not include tuition or airfare. Payment is due in three parts: (1) \$60 application fee by the extended deadline of **March 1** (along with application); (2) \$1,120 by March 15; and \$1,120 by April 15.

**Note: Some costs are subject to the US\$/Danish Crown exchange rate; if the rate changes greatly, a small adjustment to the Program Fee may be necessary.** The data indicated here reflect our best estimates at this time and the current fluctuation of the **US\$/Danish Crown** exchange rate. NB: As of November 24, 2016, \$1 USD is equivalent to approximately 7 Danish Crowns. All fees shaded in grey are non-refundable.

**Air travel is to be arranged on your own.** Cost shown is estimate only. You are responsible for getting to the first day of class in Copenhagen. A copy of your travel itinerary is due by **May 1**, uploaded to the OGE website (URL to follow).

\*\*\* KSU alumni and graduate students from other universities should visit the Graduate Studies application page, <http://www.kent.edu/admissions/apply/graduate/>, and use the appropriate form. Alumni will use the “reapplication” form. Graduate students from other universities will use the “transient” application (with approximately \$15 application fee).

## Process Checklist & Due Dates

	<i>KSU Grad students</i>	<i>KSU Alumni (grad)</i>	<i>Non-KSU Grad Students</i>
University Admission Application: <a href="http://www.kent.edu/admissions/apply/graduate/">http://www.kent.edu/admissions/apply/graduate/</a>	NA	<u>March 1</u>	<u>March 1</u>
<b><u>Course Application to the Office of Global Education (OGE)</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Course Application Form (including Passport # and expiration date)</li> <li>• Statement of Application (Why do you want to take this course?)</li> <li>• Two Letters of Recommendation (use form) from current advisor, instructor and/or supervisor</li> <li>• Graduate Transcript</li> <li>• Waivers of Responsibility Form</li> <li>• <b>Application Fee \$60</b> (nonrefundable)</li> </ul>		<u>March 1</u>	
Students informed whether selected or not; may register for the course		March 7	
Part 1 Program Fees (\$1,120 nonrefundable) due to OGE		March 15	
Part 2 Program Fees (\$1,120 nonrefundable) due to OGE		April 15	
Copy of Travel Itinerary (and Passport Number with expiration date, if not provided with application) to OGE		May 1	
Tuition Due (to KSU Bursar’s office)		May 1	

## Youth Services at Kent State SLIS

This course is part of a youth services specialization within the Master of Library and Information Science degree at Kent State School of Library and Information Science.

The United States is a major exporter of cultural products for young people, yet not a big importer of the same. Despite this, most agree that reading books (and consuming media) from other cultures can lead to important cross-cultural understandings. Through course readings, lectures and site visits conducted in Denmark, this course will raise awareness about the benefits of diversifying and balancing collections by including international books, and also discuss some of the obstacles to importing and highlighting them.

In order to do this, the class will compare the cultural construction of childhood in different countries, using the U.S. and Denmark as case studies, and we will discover how these constructs affect the cultural production for young people.

An understanding of and appreciation for international children's literature and librarianship will broaden our worldview as librarians and educators, while building connections and bridges to international understanding. A fresh look at how issues are handled overseas will provide some out-of-the box solutions to problems faced at home.

Please contact us with your questions: Dr. Marianne Martens, [mmarten3@kent.edu](mailto:mmarten3@kent.edu)

Or the Office of Global Education at [EdAbroad@kent.edu](mailto:EdAbroad@kent.edu) or 330-672-7980

- Send your course application form, statement of application, letters of reference, graduate transcript, Waiver of Responsibility Form by **March 1, 2016** via the Office of Global Education (OGE) website.
- Send your \$60 Application Fee by **March 1, 2016** and, *upon acceptance into the course*, send program fees in the amount of **\$1,120 by March 15** and **\$1,120 by April 15**. All payments shall be made via the OGE Website.

*Revised Feb. 18, 2016, to reflect deadline extension to March 1, 2016.*