Department of English & Writing Studies

Children’s Literature Online
English 2033E (650)
Summer 2014

Instructor: Dr. Clarissa Suranyi

Prerequisites
Antirequisite(s): English 2730F/G (King's).
Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your
Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your
record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the
event that you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description
Welcome to Children’s Literature Online! This course provides a survey of children's literature
and an exploration of the texts from a number of different perspectives. The readings are from
significant books written for children, selected primarily for literary quality. Some attention will be
given to the historic evolution of children's literature as a separate class, but the principal aim of
the course will be to consider the nature and development of the major genres: fairy tales,
nonsense, adventure fiction, the domestic novel, fantasy, and animal stories. You should come
away from this course with an enriched understanding of the variety of texts written for children
and the variety of critical responses to them.

Important information about this online course
This course demands as much time and effort from you as a conventional lecture-based
university course in literature. You are expected to read the assigned work and to engage with
the material, the instructor, and the other students in the course. You are required to participate
in the course regularly, as you would in a regular classroom. This participation will take the form
of active reading of course materials, asking questions of the instructor, and contributing to
online discussions. All of this means that you have to devote a minimum of ten hours per week
to the course in order to keep up with the reading and complete the assignments. Assignments
will be submitted online, so be sure to work out any technical problems quickly by contacting
ITS at 519-661-3800.

This course is designed for OWL, which operates as an online classroom. Ten percent of your
grade depends on regular participation (more on participation below). You must have regular
online access to do this; this access can be from home, from a computer lab on campus, or
from a public library, but you must ensure that you have access to the internet on a regular and
consistent basis. (This means that, in the event of a service interruption to your internet
connection at home, you are expected to find another way to access the course materials.)
Objectives:
Successful students who complete the course will be better able to:

- Place individual texts in their context within the historical development of children’s literature;
- Recognize and understand the features of genres such as the fairy tale, the cautionary tale, nonsense, adventure, domestic fiction, and fantasy;
- Display a knowledge of several classic children’s novels, as well as more recent contributions to the genre;
- Analyze texts employing the skills of literary analysis, considering features such as narrative technique, symbolism, rhyme and rhythm, layout and illustrations, etc.;
- Understand the political, religious, moral, and philosophical underpinnings of the books on the course;
- Communicate ideas effectively in writing (through discussion posts and persuasive essays);
- Develop a specific, focused argument and support it with textual evidence.

Methods of Evaluation

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essay 1 (1000 words)</td>
<td>May 23</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay 2 (1500 words)</td>
<td>June 13</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Essay 3 (2500 words)</td>
<td>July 11</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<td>Quizzes</td>
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<td>5%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation</td>
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<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final exam</td>
<td>TBA</td>
<td>35%</td>
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A student must receive a passing grade for both term work and the final examination in order to receive a passing grade for the course. This applies to all courses in all programs offered by the department. Students whose term and final exam grades average 50% or above, even though one of the two is a failure, shall receive a default grade of 48%. Please note: The department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/info%20for%20students.html#grade.

Timetable:
You should complete two unit for each full week of the summer term.

Fairy Tales
Unit 1: Introduction / Traditional Fairy Tales
Read the following fairy tales from Folk and Fairy Tales:
- “The Story of Grandmother” - Paul Delarue
- “Little Red Riding Hood” - Charles Perrault
- “Little Red Cap” - Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- “The Chinese Red Riding Hoods” w Isabelle C. Chang
- “Sun, Moon, and Talia” - Giambattista Basile
- “The Sleeping Beauty in the Wood” - Charles Perrault
- “Brier Rose” - Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- “Cinderella: Or the Glass Slipper” - Charles Perrault
- “Cap o’ Rushes” - Joseph Jacobs
“Hansel and Gretel” - Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
“Snow White” - Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
“Rapunzel” - Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
“Jack and the Beanstalk” - Joseph Jacobs
“Beauty and the Beast” - Madame Leprince de Beaumont
“The Brave Little Tailor” - Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
“Puss in Boots” - Charles Perrault
“Bluebeard” - Charles Perrault
“Rumpelstiltskin” - Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
“The Goose Girl” - Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
Also, read the Grimm brothers’ “Cinderella,” available at http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/grimmo21.html

Unit 2: Revisionist Fairy Tales
Robert Munsch, The Paper Bag Princess
Read the following stories from Folk and Fairy Tales:
“Company of Wolves” - Angela Carter
“When the Clock Strikes” - Tanith Lee
“The Tale of the Handkerchief” - Emma Donoghue

Unit 3: George MacDonald, The Princess and the Goblin

Nonsense
Unit 4: This Little Puffin
Dennis Lee, Alligator Pie
Read Perry Nodelman, “The Nursery Rhymes of Mother Goose: A World Without Glasses” (coursepack)

Unit 5: Edward Lear, The Complete Nonsense of Edward Lear
Read the following poems and stories:
“Self-Portrait of the Laureate of Nonsense”
All limericks
“The Owl and the Pussy-Cat”
“The Jumblies”
“The Story of the Four Little Children Who Went Round the World”
“The Dong with the Luminous Nose”
“The Pebble Who Has No Toes”

Unit 6: Lewis Carroll, Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking-Glass

Adventure
Unit 7: Robert Louis Stevenson, Treasure Island
Unit 8: Beatrix Potter, The Tale of Peter Rabbit
Read Jackie F. Eastman, “Beatrix Potter’s The Tale of Peter Rabbit. A Small Masterpiece” (coursepack)

Unit 9: J.M. Barrie, Peter Pan

Realism
Unit 10: E. Nesbit, The Story of the Treasure Seekers
Unit 11: John Boyne, The Boy in the Striped Pajamas
Unit 12: Louise Fitzhugh, Harriet the Spy
Read Lissa Paul, “Feminist Writer as Heroine in Harriet the Spy” (coursepack)

The Domestic Novel
Unit 13: Louisa May Alcott, Little Women
Unit 14: L.M. Montgomery, Anne of Green Gables
Read the following articles from the coursepack: Perry Nodelman, “Progressive Utopia, or How to Grow Up without Growing Up”; Susan Drain, “Community and the Individual in Anne of Green Gables The Meaning of Belonging”; Eve Kornfeld and Susan Jackson,
“The Female Bildungsroman in Nineteenth-Century America: Parameters of a Vision”
Unit 15: Frances Hodgson Burnett, The Secret Garden
Unit 16: Laura Ingalls Wilder, Little House on the Prairie

Animals
Unit 17: Kenneth Grahame, The Wind in the Willows
   Read Jane Darcy, “The Representation of Nature in The Wind in the Willows and The Secret Garden” (coursepack)
Unit 18: E.B. White, Charlotte’s Web
   Read Perry Nodelman, “Text as Teacher: The Beginning of Charlotte’s Web” (coursepack)

Fantasy
Unit 19: J.R.R. Tolkien, The Hobbit
Unit 20: C.S. Lewis, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
Unit 21: J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone
   Read Alexandra Mullen, “Harry Potter’s Schooldays” (coursepack)
Unit 22: Lois Lowry, The Giver
Unit 23: Neil Gaiman, Coraline
Unit 24: Roald Dahl, Matilda

Assignments:
Essay topics and further information about essay writing will be posted on to OWL at the beginning of the course. Assignments must be submitted online. Go to the Assignments tab and click on the appropriate assignment to see the instructions/essay topics and to attach your assignments. Your papers will automatically be uploaded to turnitin simultaneously. I am using their software to comment on papers, so when the papers are returned (if you can see it in your grade book, you can see the assignment too) check the turnitin version, grade mark tab for further commentary. Check to ensure your paper has uploaded properly. It is your responsibility to ensure its delivery.

Late Penalty and Extensions: Late essays will be penalized 2% per day, including weekends, unless the student has received an extension. Students must ask for extensions at least a week in advance of the due date and offer a good reason for the extension (academic workload, job schedule conflicts, and vacations are not good reasons). No extension will be given to any student on the day the assignment is due. Papers received more than 10 days late will receive a grade of 0.

If you miss an exam or an essay due date, or if you require an extension at the last minute on medical or compassionate grounds, you must notify your academic counselor immediately and follow the procedure below.

Quizzes: By the end of every even-numbered unit, you will be required to complete a quiz containing ten multiple-choice questions testing your knowledge of the texts covered in those two units. (For exact due dates, consult the Schedule section of the website or the Tests & Quizzes folder.) The questions will focus on content rather than interpretation; if you have read the material, you should have no difficulty answering the questions. You may keep your books handy and consult them freely, but you will be limited to ten minutes to complete each quiz.

The Participation Grade and Discussions: The one great drawback to an online course is the lack of classroom discussion. I therefore encourage students to use the Forums feature in OWL, which gives you the opportunity to discuss a text with your classmates. Your participation in these discussions is worth 10% of your grade.
Discussion questions are posted at the end of the lecture notes for each unit as well as in the forums. You may use these questions to get a discussion of a text started, although you may certainly raise other questions or issues not included in the questions. Once a discussion is posted, you may respond to it or raise another issue. Post as many discussions and responses as you like.

Remember, these discussions replace in-class discussions and should, therefore, be seriously considered and analytical. Avoid using the Forums just to state whether you liked or disliked a text or to simply agree or disagree with a previous post. I will be checking the Forums at least three times a week, and I expect you to do likewise. Posting responses to questions without first reading your fellow students’ responses is not discussion: it’s a monologue, and it does not meet the criteria of this ongoing assignment. You’ll get the most out of this assignment by treating it as an academic conversation.

For the most part, the Forums page is for students; however, I will interject if a student has posted a problematic reading or an error, if I want to emphasize a particular point or issue that has been raised, or if students seem to need some help to push their ideas further. I try to keep my interventions brief, so often they will take the form of a question stemming from the previous discussions.

I will be locking the discussion threads for each week so that the discussion stays on track. For example, the discussion thread for Unit 1, which corresponds to the first full week of classes, will be locked by Sunday, May 11 at 10:00 pm EDT. I will lock the next week’s discussion on the following Sunday, and so forth.

Your participation grade will reflect both the quantity and quality of your contributions to the discussion board. Remember that any message posted in the Discussion forum can be read by any member of the class. Use appropriate language and observe proper netiquette.

Self-Tests: At the end of the course notes for each unit, you will find several self-testing questions. These questions are designed to test your comprehension of the assigned reading and your grasp of the lecture material. If you have read the material, you should have no difficulty answering the questions. You may consult your books freely, of course, as these self-tests are for your own benefit. They may be helpful as review.

Final Exam: The final exam will be written in person at the approved exam centre that you selected when you registered for the course (see the Distance Studies section of the Academic Calendar for more information). It will not be an online exam. The final exam is scheduled by the Registrar. You must be prepared to write the exam on the dates assigned: do not make travel plans until the final exam schedule is posted.
**Accommodation**

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department. Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student’s Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The UWO Policy on Accommodation for Medical Illness and further information regarding this policy can be found at [http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf](http://uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf).

**Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):**

**Academic Offences**

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf)

**Plagiarism:**

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

**Plagiarism Checking:**

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com [http://www.turnitin.com](http://www.turnitin.com).

**Support Services**

Registrial Services [http://www.registrar.uwo.ca](http://www.registrar.uwo.ca)
Student Support Services [https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login](https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login)
Services provided by the USC [http://westernusc.ca/services/](http://westernusc.ca/services/)
Student Development Centre [http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/](http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/)

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to MentalHealth@Western: [http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/](http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/) for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.