Department of English & Writing Studies

Children’s Literature
English 2033E (651)
Summer 2014

Instructor: Prof. J. Venn

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.

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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<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Task 1</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Task 2</td>
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<td>Task 3</td>
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<td>Participation</td>
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<td>Final exam</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:**
During the Summer term, you should complete two units per week.

**WEEK ONE** (May 5 - 10)
**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” - 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 Beaumon
- “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:***
- “The Company of Wolves” - Angela Carter
- “When the Clock Strikes” - Tanith Lee
- “The Tale of the Handkerchief” - Emma Donoghue

**WEEK TWO** (May 12 - 17)
**Unit 3: Fairy Tale Novel**
George MacDonald, *The Princess and the Goblin*

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

**WEEK THREE** (May 19 - 24)
**Unit 5: Nonsense**
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 Pobble Who Has No Toes”

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

**WEEK FOUR** (May 26 - 31)
**Unit 7: Realistic Adventure**
Robert Louis Stevenson, *Treasure Island*

**Unit 8: Animal Adventure**
Beatrix Potter, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*
Read Jackie F. Eastman, “Beatrix Potter’s *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*: A Small Masterpiece” (coursepack)

**WEEK FIVE** (June 2 - 7)
**Unit 9: Fantasy Adventure**
J.M. Barrie, *Peter Pan*

**Unit 10 Realism**
E. Nesbit, *The Story of the Treasure Seekers*

**WEEK SIX** (June 9 - 14)
**Unit 11 Realism**
John Boyne, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*

**Unit 12 Realism**
Louise Fitzhugh, *Harriet the Spy*
read Lissa Paul, “Feminist Writer as Heroine in *Harriet the Spy*” (coursepack)

**WEEK SEVEN** (June 16 - 21)
**Unit 13: The Domestic Novel**
Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women*

**Unit 14: The Domestic Novel**
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, Susan Jackson, “The Female Bildungsroman in 19th-Century America: Parameters of a Vision”

**WEEK EIGHT** (June 23 - 28)
**Unit 15: Domestic Novel**
Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Secret Garden*

**Unit 16: Domestic Novel**
Laura Ingalls Wilder, *Little House on the Prairie*

**WEEK NINE** (June 30 - July 5)
**Unit 17: Animals**
Kenneth Grahame, *The Wind in the Willows*
Read Jane Darcy, “Representation of Nature in *The Wind in the Willows* & *The Secret Garden*” (coursepack)

**Unit 18: Animals**
E.B. White, *Charlotte’s Web*
***Read Perry Nodelman, “Text as Teacher: The Beginning of Charlotte ’5 Web” (coursepack)***

**WEEK TEN** (July 7 - 12)
**Unit 19: Fantasy**
J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit*
**Unit 20: Fantasy**
C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

**WEEK ELEVEN** (July 14 - 19)
**Unit 21: Fantasy**
J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone*
***Read Alexandra Mullen, “Harry Potter’s Schooldays” (coursepack)***
**Unit 22: Fantasy**
Lois Lowry, *The Giver*

**WEEK TWELVE**
**Unit 23: Fantasy** (July 21 - 25)
Neil Gaiman, *Coraline*
**Unit 24: Fantasy**
Roald Dahl, *Matilda*

**Assignments:**

**How to Proceed**

**READING LIST:** For each unit in this course, you should begin by reading the assigned text(s).

**LECTURES:** When you have finished the book (or the stories/poems), click on the learning module for that unit (these can be found on the left-hand side of the course page). Within the learning module, you’ll find a document containing notes on the assigned readings. These notes are designed to play the role that a lecture would play in an on-campus course.

**NO QUIZZES FOR US:** At the end of the course notes there are several self-testing questions. These questions are designed to help you assess your grasp of the lecture material. In some cases, the answer can be found explicitly in the course notes; in other cases, the questions prompt you to think more deeply about the ideas presented in the notes. I ask students to do the questions in the full-year course. Us? We’re just too busy I DO NOT BOTHER WITH THESE

**DISCUSSION FORUMS:** You will also find several discussion questions listed below the self-testing questions. Have a think about these ideas. They are very similar to the formal questions on the FORUMS tab on the left hand tool bar. The Participation mark of 10% will be based primarily on your activity in the forums, reflecting both the quality and the quantity of your responses.

**WANT MORE?** Additional optional readings can be found at the end of each unit. For several units, I have provided a link to a relevant article or website that provides additional information about the author and/or text. While these readings are not required, you may find them helpful, especially for books on which you are writing an essay. (If you use information from these sites, be sure to cite the source using MLA format!)
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.

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):
http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf

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

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.

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

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