DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES
CLC 2137B (2016-17) - German Fairy Tales

Instructor: Vlad Tumanov vtumanov@uwo.ca
Office hours: Class Time/Location:
Lectures — Tue 1:30-3:30 Tutorials — Th 3:30-4:30

Course Content
The course will deal with German folk tales collected by the brothers W. & J. Grimm, as well as literary fairy tales written by F. Fouqué, L. Tieck, E.T.A. Hoffmann and W. Hauff. The course will consider the historical context of the works, German Romanticism, as well as the differences between folk tales and literary fairy tales. Taught in English.

Course Requirements

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<tr>
<th>Participation</th>
<th>7%</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oral presentation (in tutorial class: see topics &amp; schedule below)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Midterm (March 2)</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Final Exam (2 hrs.)</td>
<td>33%</td>
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2 written assignments (600 w. [10%] each: upload to OWL) 20%

A. Imagine a story from our reading list as it would be told by 1 of the characters (not the hero). Keep in mind this character's biases, interests, goals & concerns. Preserve the logic of the fictional world created by the author. Alternative topic: analyze the thinking, behavior and situation of a character from a work on our reading list. Due: Feb 9

B. Imagine an alternative ending for one of our texts - not the same text as for assign. A. Preserve the logic of the fictional world created by the author. Due: Apr 6

Texts in Sequence (Western bookstore, online or from instructor)
   ISBN: 978-0553382167 (published: 1857) also see online version
2. Tieck, L. The White Egbert in Tales From the 'Phantasus', etc. of Ludwig Tieck
   ASIN: B00797XE1E. (published: 1797)
3. Fouqué, F. – Undine (published: 1811)

Films (possibly): Shrek, The Secret Adventures of Tom Thumb
Lectures
Introduction: Jan 10; Grimms: Jan 17, 24, 31, Feb 7; Tieck: Feb 7, 14;
Fouqué: Feb 28, March 7, 14;
Hoffmann: March 14, 21, 28; Hauff: March 28, Apr 4.

Tutorials
Jan 5, 12, 19; 26, Feb 2, 9, 16; March 2 (Midterm), 9, 16, 23, 30; Apr 6

Presentation topics:
1. Film versions of Grimm fairy tales by Disney: see Feature Film table here (Feb 2)
2. L. Tieck’s Puss in Boots (Weldon Library) (Feb 16)
3. Compare a Grimm fairy tale with an older version, e.g., C. Perrault or G. Basile. (Mar 9)
4. F. Fouqué’s Sintram and his Companions (Weldon Library) (Mar 16)
5. E.T.A. Hoffmann’s The Golden Flower Pot (Weldon Library) (Mar 23)
6. W. Hauff’s frame narrative The Inn in the Spessart (Mar 30)
Format for 2, 4, 5, 6: plot summary, character analysis, themes (use PPT)

The course aims to achieve the following:
• present German fairy tale characters, themes, motifs and structures
• draw connections between German fairy tales and the historical development of German society
• explore ways in which 19th century German fairy tales reflect key ideas of the Romantic movement
• introduce students to connections between German fairy tales and human psychology
• analyze the manner in which German fairy tales fit into the history of ideas and evolving social values
• enrich the cultural experience by supplementing the literary works with films
• give students in German 2251F the opportunity to read & discuss the texts in the German original

Learning Outcomes
It is expected that, upon the successful completion of the course, students will have acquired:
• familiarity with the fairy tales of the Brothers Grimm, as well as those of other major authors
• the understanding of the way in which German fairy tales reflect important questions in the psychological, philosophical, political, ethical, artistic, scientific and other domains
• the use of certain fairy tale elements as a means of social criticism
• insight into the special status of the literary fairy tale as a means of dealing with difficult issues from a safe distance
• the appreciation of the need to approach German fairy tales in the context of the norms under which they were created
• an improved ability to express oneself on these and other related topics orally (through in-class presentations) and in writing (through essays).

The Department of Modern Languages and Literatures Policies (which govern the conduct, standards, and expectations for student participation in the department's courses) are available here. It is your responsibility to understand these policies, and thus ignorance thereof cannot be used as grounds for appeal.