

This syllabus has been provided as a reference tool for students considering this course. It has been modified to follow Senate regulations. Current students enrolled in any undergraduate course must obtain the most recent syllabus from their course instructor or from their course website. This is not the latest version.



## Department of English & Writing Studies

### **Children's Literature English 2033E (650) Fall/Winter 2013-14**

**Instructor:** Dr. Clarissa Suranyi

Antirequisite(s): English 2730F/G (King's).

#### 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 five 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

Thesis/Outline	5%
Essay 1	10%
Essay 2	15%
Essay 3	25%
Quizzes	5%
Participation	10%
Final exam	35%

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>.

### How to Proceed

For each unit in this course, you should begin by reading the assigned text(s) listed below. When you have finished the text(s), you should click on the learning module for that unit (these can be found on the left-hand menu bar on the OWL course site). 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.

Additional optional readings can be found at the end of each unit. For each unit, 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!) Many of these articles contain controversial ideas; if you'd like to respond or discuss these articles (or other issues arising from our reading), you can use the "Comment" button at the bottom of each learning module.

**Timetable:**

You should complete one unit for each full week of the Fall/Winter 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” 7 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” 7 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

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: EB. 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: CS. 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:**

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, September 15 at 10:00 pm EDT. I will lock the next week's discussion on the following Sunday, and so forth.

### **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 center 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.

### **Contacting your instructor**

**Email:** I am happy to communicate with students by email, but there are two provisos. (1) I can't always answer emails instantly; please allow 24 hours for a response on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends. (2) I will respond to short emails only.

Students must check their UWO email regularly for messages pertinent to the course.

**Messages sent from email providers such as yahoo, Gmail or Hotmail will not be answered**, so please use our UWO email account for messages to your instructor. In addition, please ensure that your emails conform to the rudimentary standards of university discourse: emails should be written using correct grammar, complete sentences, and a professional tone. Rude or harassing emails, or emails from students requesting information readily available on the course outline, will not be answered.

**Telephone:** Students wanting to engage in an extended conversation about the course work – discussions or questions about lecture materials, essay or exam expectations or results, course readings, etc – may email me to set up a time that is convenient for both of us to have a telephone conversation. Either I will call you (if the call is not long distance) or you can call me at a phone number I will give you, depending on where I am the day of the appointment. Please note that I cannot return long-distance calls.

**In person:** Students who are in the London area and who would prefer to talk with me rather than by telephone or email may email me to set up a time that is convenient for both of us to meet at my office on campus.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to talk or ask questions about any topic or issue, including assignments, difficulties you are having with the course, suggestions for further reading, or clarification and expansion of issues raised in the readings or lecture notes. Unfortunately, most students wait until the last minute or until all hell is breaking loose before consulting their instructors. Please see me well ahead of deadlines and the onset of nervous breakdowns.

### 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):**

[http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](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](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.