

Department of English & Writing Studies

**Children's Literature**  
**English 2033E (650)**  
Fall/Winter 2017-18

Preliminary Course Outline (the complete final version will be available by Sept. 6)

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**Antirequisite(s):** English 2730F/G (King's University College)

Course Description

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.

**Objectives:**

By the end of the course, the successful student will be 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.

### Course Materials

**All the texts listed below are required.** I encourage you to read ahead. The texts are listed in the order we'll be covering them. See the [Western Bookstore](#) list for publishers and editions.

Hallett, Martin and Barbara Karasek, eds. *Folk and Fairy Tales* (read only the stories listed below)

- "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 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
- "The Company of Wolves" – Angela Carter
- "When the Clock Strikes" – Tanith Lee
- "The Tale of the Handkerchief" – Emma Donoghue

Grimm, Jacob and Wilhelm, "Cinderella," at <http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/grimm021.html>

Munsch, Robert, *The Paper Bag Princess*

MacDonald, George, *The Princess and the Goblin*

Matterson, Elizabeth, Comp. *This Little Puffin*

Lee, Dennis, *Alligator Pie*

Lear, Edward, *The Complete Nonsense of Edward Lear* (Read only the poems and stories listed below)

- "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"

Carroll, Lewis, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass*

Stevenson, Robert Louis, *Treasure Island*

Potter, Beatrix, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*

Barrie, J.M., *Peter Pan*

Nesbit, E. *The Story of the Treasure Seekers*

Boyne, John, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*

Fitzhugh, Louise, *Harriet the Spy*

Alcott, Louisa May, *Little Women*

Montgomery, L.M., *Anne of Green Gables*

Burnett, Frances Hodgson, *The Secret Garden*  
Wilder, Laura Ingalls, *Little House on the Prairie*  
Grahame, Kenneth, *The Wind in the Willows*  
White, E.B., *Charlotte's Web*  
Tolkien, J.R.R., *The Hobbit*  
Lewis, C.S., *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*  
Rowling, J.K., *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*  
Lowry, Lois, *The Giver*  
Gaiman, Neil, *Coraline*  
Dahl, Roald, *Matilda*  
*Critical Readings – Distance Readings* (available only from The Book Store at Western)

### Methods of Evaluation

Thesis/Outline for Essay 1	Due Oct. 6	(Worth 5% of Essay 1 mark)	
Essay 1	Due Nov. 10	1000 words	10%
Essay 2	Due Jan. 26	1500 words	15%
Essay 3	Due Mar. 9	2500 words	25%
Quizzes			5%
Participation			10%
Final exam	TBA (April examination period)		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/Student%20Information.html>.

### **Assignments:**

Assignments must be submitted online through OWL (the OWL course site will be available on the first day of classes). 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. Check to ensure your paper has uploaded properly. It is your responsibility to ensure its delivery. I do not accept assignments by e-mail.

### **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 any of the possible exam dates: do not make travel plans until the final exam schedule is posted.

**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 7 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 counsellor immediately and follow the procedure below.

Contacting your instructor

**Email:** I am happy to communicate with students by e-mail, 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 your 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 material, essay or exam expectations or results, course readings, etc.—may e-mail 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 in person rather than by telephone or e-mail may e-mail me to set up a time that is convenient for both of us to meet at my office on campus.

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>.

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

### 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.