

## Department of English &amp; Writing Studies

**Children's Literature**  
**English 2033E (001)**  
Fall/Winter 2019-20

**Instructor:** Dr. Gabrielle Ceraldi  
UC 4431  
gceraldi@uwo.ca

**Course Location:** Middlesex College 105B

**Course Date/Time:** Tuesdays 3:30-4:30 pm  
and Thursdays 3:30-5:30 pm

Office Hours: T/Th. 2:00-3:00 or by  
appointment

**Antirequisites:** English 2730F/G (King's)

**Learning 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, both through speech (in oral presentations) and in writing (through persuasive essays);
- Offer independent insights, beyond those outlined in class;
- Develop a specific, focused argument and support it with textual evidence.

**Methods of Evaluation**

Essay #1 (1500 words, due Oct. 29)	15%
Film Discussions (2 x 250 words)	10%
Test (Jan. 28)	10%
Essay #2 (3000 words, due Mar. 12)	25%
Attendance and Participation	10%
Final Exam	30%

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

<https://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

**General Information:**

1. Regular attendance at lectures is essential. A verbal or emailed explanation is sufficient for a class missed due to emergency or illness; for longer legitimate absences (a week or more), students should see the academic counsellor in their dean's office to arrange accommodation in order to avoid penalty.
2. Essays are due on the dates specified above, but each student will be allowed a total of FIVE grace days to be used at his/her discretion. Two percent per day (including weekends) will be deducted from late essays once the 5 grace days have been used up. No paper will be accepted later than three weeks after the due date.
3. All essays should be double-spaced and printed in a standard font such as 12-pt Times Roman. Please follow MLA format (see attached guidelines). Essays should be handed in during class or dropped off in the Department of English Essay Drop-Off Boxes (across from UC 2431). No essay will be accepted beyond three weeks after the due date or after the last day of classes (April 3). Email is not an accepted method of submission; essays must be submitted as hard copies.
4. The Participation Grade will reflect your presence in class and your lively participation in discussions.
5. All grades, once assigned and/or posted, are final. While formal appeal processes do exist in the Department of English and Writing Studies, grades will not be changed after the fact in response to emailed requests and/or GPA requirements, nor will the weighting of assignments be altered for individual students.

**Traditional Fairy Tales**

"The Story of Grandmother," Paul Delarue  
"Little Red Riding Hood," Charles Perrault  
"Little Red Cap," Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm  
"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  
"Ashputtelle," Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm  
"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 Frog King," Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm  
"The Brave Little Tailor," Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm  
"Molly Whuppie," Joseph Jacobs  
"Puss in Boots," Charles Perrault  
"Bluebeard," Charles Perrault  
"Rumpelstiltskin," Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm  
"The Goose Girl," Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm (coursepack)

**Revisionist Fairy Tales**

*The Paper Bag Princess*, Robert Munsch  
"Snow White," The Merseyside Fairy Story Collective  
"The Tale of the Handkerchief," Emma Donoghue (coursepack)  
"The Company of Wolves," Angela Carter  
"The Wicked Stepmother's Lament," Sara Maitland

**Grading Rubric:**

Thesis	Excellent	Forceful, fresh and challenging
	Good	Clear development of a specific thesis
	Satisfactory	Reasonably clear thesis
	Poor Inadequate	Unclear, overgeneral
Argument (ideas)	Excellent	Original, analytical, persuasive, depth of insight
	Good	Analytical, persuasive, with some originality and depth
	Satisfactory	More descriptive than analytical, not fully persuasive
	Poor Inadequate	Plot summary or lengthy paraphrase, general observations
Organization	Excellent	Paragraphs focus on clearly articulated, meaningful topics
	Good	Paragraphs support thesis adequately
	Satisfactory	Most paragraphs support thesis; some problems with coherent paragraphing
	Poor Inadequate	Significant problems with paragraphing
Use of Sources (quotations)	Excellent	Detailed engagement with text, seamless integration, proper documentation
	Good	Adequately detailed reference to text, proper documentation
	Satisfactory	Effort to support points with reference to text and proper documentation
	Poor Inadequate	Overgeneralization with inadequate support, little effort at documentation
Style	Excellent	Graceful, rhetorically impressive, few if any errors
	Good	Clear writing style, errors relatively few and minor
	Satisfactory	Some problems with clarity, grammar, punctuation, or wordiness
	Poor Inadequate	Errors serious enough to interfere with understanding

A+ Outstanding 90+  
 A Excellent 80-89  
 B Good 70-79

C Satisfactory 60-69  
 D Poor 50-59  
 F Inadequate across several areas

**Sample of MLA Format:**

Surname 1

Your Name

Dr. Gabrielle Ceraldi (OR T.A.'s name)

English 2033E

15 November 2011

Moral Ambiguity in R. L. Stevenson's *Treasure Island*  
and Emma Donoghue's "The Tale of the Handkerchief"

Your title should indicate your topic and the works you will be discussing. Titles of books should be *italicized*. Titles of short poems, articles, and short stories (including fairy tales) should be put in quotation marks.

Introduce quotations in your own words, identifying the speaker and context: i.e. Bettelheim argues that "The fairy tale ... confronts the child squarely with the basic human predicaments" (328). Use ellipses to indicate where you have omitted material. If you are using an online version of a novel which has no page numbers, you may use chapter numbers instead (ch. 13). If the quotation is longer than four lines, do not use quotation marks; instead, indent the passage ten spaces from the left and continue to double space. EXAMPLE: MacDonald uses Darwin's theory of evolution to explain the goblins' origin:

Those who had caught sight of them said that they had greatly altered in the course of generations and no wonder, seeing they lived away from the sun, in cold and wet and dark places. They were now, not ordinarily ugly, but either absolutely hideous, or ludicrously grotesque both in face and form. (ch. 1)

List all sources used at the end of the paper.

Works Cited

Bettelheim, Bruno. "The Struggle for Meaning." *Folk and Fairy Tales*. Ed. Martin Hallett and Barbara Karasek. 4th ed. Peterborough, Ontario: Broadview, 2009. 323-35.

MacDonald, George. *The Princess and the Goblin*. *Page by Page Books*.

### 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.

Timetable

Sept. 5	Introduction to the Course
	<b>Fairy Tales</b>
Sept. 10-12	Traditional Fairy Tales, <i>Folk and Fairy Tales</i> (see list on p. 5)
Sept. 17-19	Robert Munsch, <i>The Paper Bag Princess</i>
	Revisionist Fairy Tales, <i>Folk and Fairy Tales</i> (see list on p. 5)
	<b>Moralistic Literature</b>
Sept. 24-26	Louisa May Alcott, <i>Little Women</i>
Oct. 1	Cautionary Tales (coursepack)
	<b>Nonsense Literature</b>
Oct. 3	Nursery Rhymes (coursepack); Dennis Lee, <i>Alligator Pie</i>
Oct. 8-10	Edward Lear, <i>Nonsense Poems and Stories</i> (coursepack)
Oct. 15-17	Lewis Carroll, <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i> and <i>Through the Looking Glass</i>
Oct. 22-24	Roald Dahl, <i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i>
	<b>Girls and Boys</b>
Oct. 29-31	Frances Hodgson Burnett, <i>The Secret Garden</i>
	Essay #1 Due Oct. 29
Nov. 5-7	FALL READING WEEK (no class)
Nov. 12	Dr. Seuss, <i>The Cat in the Hat</i>
Nov. 14-19	John Boyne, <i>The Boy in the Striped Pajamas</i>
Nov. 21	film: <i>The Boy in the Striped Pajamas</i> (discussion due Nov. 28)
Nov. 26-28	L. M. Montgomery, <i>Anne of Green Gables</i>
Dec. 3-5	J.K. Rowling, <i>Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone</i>
	<b>Adventure</b>
Jan. 7-9	Robert Louis Stevenson, <i>Treasure Island</i>
Jan. 14-16	Beatrix Potter, <i>The Tale of Peter Rabbit</i> ; J.M. Barrie, <i>Peter Pan</i>
	<b>Realism</b>
Jan. 21-23	Laura Ingalls Wilder, <i>Little House on the Prairie</i>
Jan. 28	TEST
Jan. 30-Feb. 4	Louise Fitzhugh, <i>Harriet the Spy</i>
Feb. 6	film: <i>Harriet the Spy</i> (discussion due Feb. 13)
Feb. 11	Picture Books
Feb. 13	Workshop: Writing Comparative Essays
Feb. 18-20	SPRING READING WEEK (no classes)
	<b>Fantasy</b>
Feb. 25-27	George MacDonald, <i>The Princess and the Goblin</i>
Mar. 3-5	C.S. Lewis, <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i>
Mar. 10-12	L. Frank Baum, <i>The Wizard of Oz</i>
	ESSAY #2 Due Mar. 12
	<b>Dystopia</b>
Mar. 17	exam format
Mar. 19	Lois Lowry, <i>The Giver</i>
Mar. 24-26	Suzanne Collins, <i>The Hunger Games</i>
	<b>Review</b>
Mar. 31-Apr. 2	Neil Gaiman, <i>Coraline</i> /review