

Department of English & Writing Studies

Children's Literature

English 2033E (650)

Summer 2022

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Course Delivery Type: Online Asynchronous

Please read the following information completely and carefully. You are responsible for it.

Course Description

This course provides a survey of children's literature, exploring texts written for children from a number of different perspectives. Some attention will be given to the historic evolution of children's literature, 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. A central focus will be the assumptions about children and childhood that shape these texts, all produced by adults based on what they believe children enjoy, want, or need.

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 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. You should devote a minimum of fifteen 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. 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.)

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 in writing (through discussion posts and persuasive essays);
- Develop a specific, focused argument and support it with textual evidence.

Course Materials

The course texts are listed in the Reading Schedule below in the order we'll discuss them. Please refer to the Western Bookstore textbook search for specific editions.

Methods of Evaluation

Essay 1	Due May 27	1500-2000 words	25%
Essay 2	Due July 15	2500-3000 words	35%
Quizzes			5%
Participation		500 words*	5%
Final exam	TBA (August exam period)		30%

*This is the cumulative minimum number of words required for all forum postings in the course, not the minimum number per posting.

Note: The Department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available 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>

Reading Schedule

You must complete two units for each full week of the Summer term. The texts listed below can be purchased from the Western Bookstore. For more information about reading deadlines and using different editions of the texts, consult the Getting Started tab and the General Discussion forum on our OWL course site. **Always read ahead whenever possible.**

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
- "Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China" – Ed Young
- "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
- "Ashputtle" – 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 Brave Little Tailor" – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- "Puss in Boots" – Charles Perrault
- "Bluebeard" – Charles Perrault
- "Rumpelstiltskin" – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm

Unit 2: Revisionist Fairy Tales

Robert Munsch, *The Paper Bag Princess*

Emma Donoghue, "The Tale of the Handkerchief" (available in the Learner Resources folder on our OWL course site)

Read the following stories from *Folk and Fairy Tales*:

"The Company of Wolves" – Angela Carter

"When the Clock Strikes" – Tanith Lee

Unit 3: Natalie Babbitt, *Tuck Everlasting*

Nonsense

Unit 4: Elizabeth Matterson, comp. *This Little Puffin* (OR, read the nursery rhymes here:

<http://www.hubbardscupboard.org/nursery-rhyme-words>)

Dennis Lee, *Alligator Pie*

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 (these can be found at <http://www.nonsenselit.org/Lear/learwk.html>)

"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: 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*

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*

The Domestic Novel

Unit 13: Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women*

Unit 14: L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

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*

Unit 18: E.B. White, *Charlotte's Web*

Fantasy

Unit 19: C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

Unit 20: Philippa Pearce, *Tom's Midnight Garden*

Unit 21: J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*

Unit 22: Lois Lowry, *The Giver*

Unit 23: Neil Gaiman, *Coraline*

Unit 24: Roald Dahl, *Matilda*

How to Proceed

Click on the Getting Started tab on the left-hand menu bar on our OWL course site, which explains how to navigate through the course. Always read the texts assigned for each unit before reading the lecture notes.

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 Calendar or the Tests & Quizzes folder on the OWL site.) 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.

Your final Quizzes mark will be the average of your 10 best quizzes (there are 12 quizzes total). Quiz deadlines cannot be extended for individual students for any reason. Because only your top ten quiz marks count towards your grade, you can skip two quizzes due to illness or other unavoidable circumstances. If illness requires you to miss more than two quizzes, you must contact your academic counsellor in the dean's office of your home faculty for accommodation.

Forum Discussions and the Participation Grade:

Your participation mark will be the average of two marks assigned, one at the end of Unit 12 and the other at the end of Unit 24. Discussion questions are posted at the end of the lecture notes for each unit as well as in the Forums. You should choose ONE question per week to respond to (this means you can choose one of the two unit readings each week for your forum response).

For full credit, you must post a total of 10 substantial posts (spread out over 10 different weeks). A substantial post is one in which you discuss something specific about the text under discussion, using quotations and specific details from the text and commenting on their significance. There is no penalty for contributing less substantial posts (such as expressions of agreement with another student or general reflections about children's literature), but these posts do not count towards your grade. As with the Quizzes, you may skip posting in two of the twelve weeks of the course due to illness or other conflicts; however, if your circumstances prevent you from posting for more than two weeks, you must seek accommodation through your academic counsellor.

I will be locking the discussion threads for each week so that the discussion stays on track. For example, the discussion forum for Units 1 and 2, which corresponds to the first week of classes, will be locked on **Sunday, May 15 at 10:00 pm EDT**. I will lock the next week's discussion on the following Sunday, and so forth. Forum deadlines cannot be extended for individual students for any reason.

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.

Final Exam:

The final exam for this course will have an open-book “take-home” format. The exam questions will be posted on OWL 24 hours prior to the start of the scheduled exam time slot, and students must upload their answers to OWL prior to the end of that scheduled time slot. For more information, see the Final Exam Information section in the Learner Resources folder on our OWL course site. Please note that you may not use a Self-Reported Absence for the final exam; anyone who is unable to write the exam must obtain permission for a special exam through academic counselling in their home faculty.

Contacting your instructor:

EMAIL

I am happy to communicate with students by e-mail. Please allow 24 hours for a response on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends. 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 use 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 OR ZOOM CALLS

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 or Zoom conversation.

Assignments:

Assignments must be submitted online through OWL. 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.

Page Layout and Citation Style:

Your essays must follow MLA style in both page layout and citation style. Here is some basic information:

- 1) In the top left-hand corner of the first page, put your name, the name of your professor, the name of the course, and the date.
- 2) Number your pages in the top right-hand corner.
- 3) Double space.
- 4) If you use a snappy, attention-grabbing title, follow it up with an informative subtitle that indicates your topic and the works you will be discussing (e.g. Touching Pitch: Moral Ambiguity in R. L. Stevenson's *Treasure Island*).
- 5) Titles of novels and other long works should be *italicized*. Titles of short poems, articles, and short stories should be in quotation marks.
- 6) 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” (311). Use ellipses to indicate where you have omitted material.
- 7) 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.

- 8) For short quotations, indicate the page number(s) in parentheses after the quotation marks and before the end punctuation. For long, indented quotations, place the parentheses after the end punctuation. Do not use abbreviations such as p. or pp. or include the author's name if the identity of the author is clear from the context.
- 9) List all the works you have referred to in a Works Cited list at the end of your paper.

There is a useful online guide to MLA style at the following address:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/> Should you need more detailed information, the comprehensive *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* is available at Western Libraries.

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 well 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. Essays that are more than 7 days late will not be accepted.

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.

Accommodation Policies

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

Students who are seeking academic consideration for missed work during the semester may submit a self-reported absence form online provided that the absence is 48 hours or less and the other conditions specified in the Senate policy are met. See policy here:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Consideration_for_absences.pdf.

Students whose absences are expected to last longer than 48 hours, or where the other conditions detailed in the policy are not met (e.g., work is worth more than 30% of the final grade, the student has already used up their self-reported absences, the absence is during the final exam period), may receive academic consideration by submitting a Student Medical Certificate (for illness) or other appropriate documentation (for compassionate grounds). The Student Medical Certificate is available online at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

All students pursuing academic consideration, regardless of type, must contact their instructors no less than 24 hours following the end of the period of absence to clarify how they will be expected to fulfill the academic responsibilities missed during their absence. Students are reminded that they should consider carefully the implications of postponing tests or midterm exams or delaying submission of work, and are encouraged to make appropriate decisions based on their specific circumstances.

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons. **All documentation required for absences that are not covered by the Self-Reported Absence Policy must be submitted to the Academic Counselling office of a student's Home Faculty.**

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

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>.

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.