

Department of English & Writing Studies

English 2033E (001)**Children's Literature**

Fall/Winter 2026-27

Instructor: Dr. Gabrielle Ceraldi
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Office Hours: T/Th 3:30-4:30

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 Nov. 5)	15%
Film Discussions (2 x 250 words)	10%
Test (Feb. 4)	10%
Essay #2 (3000 words, due Mar. 18)	25%
Attendance and Participation	10%
Final Exam*	30%

*Students must receive a minimum grade of 40% on the final exam in order to pass the course. A student who receives a grade below 40% on the final exam will be assigned a course grade of 45% regardless of their calculated average.

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>.

The texts for this course are available from the Western Bookstore. You may use another edition where available; if you do so in an essay, you should include the publisher and date of publication in your Works Cited list.

Link to the Western Bookstore course list: https://bookstore.uwo.ca/textbook-search?campus=UWO&term=W2026&courses%5B0%5D=001_UW/ENG2033E

Schedule of Classes

Sept. 10	Introduction to the Course
	Fairy Tales
Sept. 15-17	Traditional Fairy Tales, <i>Folk and Fairy Tales</i> (see list on p. 3)
Sept. 22-24	Robert Munsch, <i>The Paper Bag Princess</i> Revisionist Fairy Tales, <i>Folk and Fairy Tales</i> (see list on p. 3)
	Moralistic Literature
Sept. 29-Oct. 1	Louisa May Alcott, <i>Little Women</i> (Part 1)
Oct. 6	Hilaire Belloc, <i>Cautionary Tales</i> (link on OWL – read Jim, Henry King, Matilda, Franklin Hyde, Algernon, and Rebecca)
	Nonsense Literature
Oct. 6-8	Nursery Rhymes (on OWL); Dennis Lee, <i>Alligator Pie</i>
Oct. 12-16	FALL READING WEEK
Oct. 20-22	Edward Lear, <i>Nonsense Poems and Stories</i> (link on OWL; see list p. 3)
Oct. 27-29	Lewis Carroll, <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i> and <i>Through the Looking Glass</i>
Nov. 3-5	George MacDonald, <i>The Princess and the Goblin</i> Essay #1 Due Nov. 5
	Girls and Boys
Nov. 10-12	Frances Hodgson Burnett, <i>The Secret Garden</i>
Nov. 17-19	John Boyne, <i>The Boy in the Striped Pajamas</i>
Nov. 24	film: <i>The Boy in the Striped Pajamas</i> (discussion due Dec. 3)
Nov. 26-Dec. 1	L. M. Montgomery, <i>Anne of Green Gables</i>
Dec. 3-8	J.K. Rowling, <i>Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone</i>
	Adventure
Jan. 5-7	Robert Louis Stevenson, <i>Treasure Island</i>
Jan. 12-15	Beatrix Potter, <i>The Tale of Peter Rabbit</i> ; J.M. Barrie, <i>Peter Pan</i>
	Realism
Jan. 19-21	Laura Ingalls Wilder, <i>Little House on the Prairie</i>
Jan. 26-28	Louise Fitzhugh, <i>Harriet the Spy</i>
Feb. 2	film: <i>Harriet the Spy</i> (discussion due Feb. 9)
Feb. 4	TEST
Feb. 9-11	Picture Books; Workshop: Writing Comparative Essays
Feb. 15-19	SPRING READING WEEK (no classes)
Feb. 23	Jeff Kinney, <i>Diary of a Wimpy Kid</i>
Feb. 25	Barbara Park, <i>Junie B. Jones and a Little Monkey Business</i>
	Fantasy
Mar. 2-4	C.S. Lewis, <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i>
Mar. 9-11	L. Frank Baum, <i>The Wizard of Oz</i>
Mar. 16-18	E.B. White, <i>Charlotte's Web</i> ; exam format ESSAY #2 Due Mar. 18
Mar. 23-25	Roald Dahl, <i>Matilda</i>

Review

Mar. 30-Apr. 1 Neil Gaiman, *Coraline*
Apr. 6-8 review

Readings for Sept. 15-24 (from *Folk and Fairy Tales* unless otherwise indicated)

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
"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 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 (link on OWL)

Revisionist Fairy Tales

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

Readings for Oct. 20-22 (links on OWL)

Edward Lear

"How Pleasant to Know Mr. Lear!"
A Book of Nonsense (limericks 1-60 from nonsenselit.org)
"The Owl and the Pussy-Cat" (from II. Nonsense Songs on gutenber.org)
"The Story of the Four Little Children Who Went Round the World" (from II. Nonsense Stories)
"Nonsense Botany" (from II. Nonsense Botany)
"Twenty-Six Nonsense Rhymes and Pictures" (from III. More Nonsense...)
"The Dong with a Luminous Nose" (from IV. Laughable Lyrics)
"The Courtship of the Yonghy-Bonghy-Bo" (from IV. Laughable Lyrics)
"The Pobble Who Has No Toes" (from IV. Laughable Lyrics)

General Information

1. All written assignments should be double-spaced and should use a standard font such as 12-pt Times Roman. Please follow MLA format (see attached guidelines on p. 7). Essays must be uploaded as documents to the Assignments tool. Email is not an accepted method of submission. To count as on time, an essay must be uploaded to the OWL by 11:59 pm on the due date. One percent per day (including weekends) will be deducted from late essays (that is, one mark out of 100 will be deducted for each late day), beginning 48 hours after the due date (that is, essays submitted on the third day after the due date will receive a 3-mark deduction). No paper will be accepted beyond two weeks after the due date or during the exam period.
2. The written assignments in this course have flexible deadlines; that is, late penalties will not be deducted for a period of 48 hours after the due date. These assignments are not eligible for additional academic consideration without supporting documentation. Students can obtain additional academic consideration by submitting appropriate documentation to the academic counsellor in their home faculty through the Student Absence Portal (see page 8 of this syllabus for more details). Please email me only after you have contacted academic counselling.
3. Requests for academic consideration pertaining to the Test on Feb. 4 **must** be accompanied by supporting documentation. If you receive academic consideration for the test, you must write the make-up test, which will be held on Feb. 11 at 3:30 pm.
4. Regular attendance at lectures is essential. If you have to miss a class for reasons of emergency or illness, you should inform me by email; if you need to miss more than a week of classes, you should contact your academic counsellor to arrange for academic consideration to avoid penalty.
5. The Attendance and Participation grade will reflect not only your physical presence in class but also your active involvement, which can take the form of spoken contributions to class discussion or posts added to the Discussions area on OWL (found under Communications in the top menu). The highest marks in this category will be achieved by those who participate every week, either in person or online (or a combination of the two).
6. 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 All grades, once assigned and/or posted, are final.
7. Students are responsible for checking the course OWL site on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class. If students need assistance with the course OWL site, they can seek support on the OWL Help page. Alternatively, they can contact the Western Technology Services Helpdesk. They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in all classes and tutorials. In cases of excessive absenteeism (e.g. more than 9 unexcused hours for a half course, 18 for a full course), which are not accounted for by either academic consideration or accommodation, students may be debarred from taking the final examination, and will receive an official warning to this effect by or before the course drop date (see Senate policy). In classes with or without final exams, students who do not attend class will receive 0% for course participation grades. Unless other policies dictate a different set of penalties in specific English and Writing Studies programs, this will apply to all department programs.

Academic Integrity Tutorial

All students are required to enroll in and complete the Centre for Teaching and Learning's Academic Integrity Tutorial. Once the tutorial has been completed, you will receive a downloadable certificate. You must upload the certificate and submit it through the course Assignments tab in order to complete this assignment. The tutorial must be completed by Friday in the second week of term. This tutorial is mandatory in order for you to complete and pass the course. If you have completed the tutorial already for another course, you may upload the same certificate for this course; you do not need to repeat the tutorial.

Intellectual Property/Copyright

All instructor-written materials (e.g. PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course, and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses, without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.

Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence

The use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools/software/apps is unacceptable in this course.

Statement on Gender-Based and Sexual Violence

Western is committed to reducing incidents of gender-based and sexual violence and providing compassionate support to anyone who has gone through these traumatic events. If you have experienced gender-based or sexual violence (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts, [here](#). To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write the Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

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 five spaces from the left and continue to double space. i.e. 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 ... both in face and form. (ch. 1)

Do not include the author's name in the parenthetical reference if the identity of the author is already clear from the context. List all the works you have referred to in a Works Cited list at the end of your paper.

Works Cited

Bettelheim, Bruno. "The Struggle for Meaning." *Folk and Fairy Tales*, edited by Martin Hallett and Barbara Karasek, 4th ed., Broadview, 2009, pp. 323-35.
MacDonald, George. *The Princess and the Goblin*. *Page by Page Books*,
[www.pagebypagebooks.com/George_MacDonald/
The_Princess_and_the_Goblin/](http://www.pagebypagebooks.com/George_MacDonald/The_Princess_and_the_Goblin/).

Academic Consideration

Students may request academic consideration in cases of extenuating circumstances – that is, personal circumstances beyond the student's control that have a **substantial but temporary** impact on the student's ability to meet essential academic requirements.

1. Requests for academic consideration are made to the Academic Advising office of the student's Faculty of Registration.
2. Requests for academic consideration include the following components:
 - a. Self-attestation signed by the student;
 - b. Indication of the course(s) and assessment(s) relevant to the request;
 - c. Supporting documentation as relevant.

Requests without supporting documentation are **limited to one per term per course**.

Instructors may designate one assignment or assessment as exempt from this allowance. In this course, requests for academic consideration pertaining to the Test on Feb. 4 **must** be accompanied by supporting documentation.

Assignments with flexible deadlines and any term work that does not count towards the course grade are **not** eligible for additional consideration without supporting documentation.

Documentation for medical illness, when required, includes the completion of a [Western Student Medical Certificate \(SMC\)](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation, by a health care practitioner.

Requests linked to examinations scheduled by the Office of the Registrar during official examination periods as well as practice laboratory and performance tests typically scheduled in the last week of term **always** require formal supporting documentation.

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/>

Academic Support and Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.