

## Department of English &amp; Writing Studies

**Children's Literature  
English 2033E (650)  
Fall/Winter 2016-17**

**Instructor:** Dr. Clarissa Suranyi  
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Office Hours: by appointment only (telephone or in person)

**Prerequisites:** Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from your Dean to enrol in it, you will be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. The decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees.

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

Course Description

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 must devote a minimum of ten 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.)

**Learning Objectives:**

By the end of the course, the successful student will be able to:

Place individual texts in their context within the historical devel

**Nonsense**

Unit 4: *This Little Puffin*

Dennis Lee, *Alligator Pie*

Methods of Evaluation

**Assignments and Grade Distribution:**

Thesis/Outline for Essay 1	Due Oct. 14	(Worth 5% of Essay 1 mark)	
Essay 1	Due Nov. 18	1000 words	10%
Essay 2	Due Jan. 20	1500 words	15%
Essay 3	Due Mar. 10	2500 words	25%
Quizzes			5%
Participation			10%
Final exam	TBA (April examination period)		35%

**NOTE:** As in all courses in the Department of English, students 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 above). 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 menubar on the OWL course site). Within the learning module,

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.

**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 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.

**The Participation Grade and Discussions:**

Your participation in the discussion forums on OWL 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. 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

does not meet the criteria of this on-going assignment (the complete grading criteria for discussion postings can be found in the OWL site). I will be checking this assignment by treating it as an academic conversation.

For the most part, the Forums are 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 on **Sunday, Sept. 18, at 10:00 pm EDT** 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 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 the dates assigned: do not make travel plans until the final exam schedule is posted.



- 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
- 9) List all the works you have referred to in a Works Cited list at the end of your paper. Use the following format for the entries in your Works Cited list:

Title of Book.

City of publication: Publisher, date of publication.

There is a useful online guide to MLA format at the following address  
<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

**Further Information for Students:**

For English Department regulations governing Term Work, Exams, Faculty Office Hours, Academic Relief (app on our Department website at [http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/info for students.html](http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/info%20for%20students.html)

Contacting Your Instructor

**Email:**

I am happy to communicate with students by e-mail. I 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 questions – should contact the instructor by email or phone. Please use the following contact information:

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accom