

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)

**Instructor:** Dr. Clarissa Suranyi  
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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.



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

**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

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### 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.