

Department of English & Writing Studies

Children's Literature
English 2033E (650)
Fall/Winter 2018-19

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

Antirequisite(s): English 2730F/G (King's University College)

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

Welcome to Children's Literature Online! 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.

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's office hours, and the course materials. You are also expected to participate in the online discussions and to provide feedback to the instructor and your peers. The course is designed to be a challenging and rewarding experience for all students who are interested in children's literature.

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.

Methods of Evaluation

Thesis/Outline for Essay 1	Due Oct. 5	(Worth 5% of Essay 1 mark)	
Essay 1	Due Nov. 9	1000 words	10%
Essay 2	Due Jan. 25	1500 words	15%

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

“The Brave Little Tailor” – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm

“Puss in Boots” – Charles Perrault

“Bluebeard” – Charles Perrault

“Rumpelstiltskin” – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm

“The Goose Girl” – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm

Also, read the Grimm brothers’ “Cinderella,” available at

<http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/grimm021.html>

Unit 2: Revisionist Fairy Tales

Robert Munsch, *The Paper Bag Princess*

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

“The Company of Wolves” – Angela Carter

“When the Clock Strikes” – Tanith Lee

“The Tale of the Handkerchief” – Emma Donoghue

Unit 3: George MacDonald, *The Princess and the Goblin*

Nonsense

Unit 4: Elizabeth Matterson, *This Little Puffin*

Dennis Lee, *Alligator Pie*

Read Perry Nodelman, “The Nursery Rhymes of Mother Goose: A World Without Glasses” (Critical Readings)

Animals

Unit 17: Kenneth Grahame, *The Wind in the Willows*

Read Jane Darcy, "The Representation of Nature in *The Wind in the Willows* and *The Secret Garden*" (Critical Readings)

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

Read Perry Nodelman, "Text as Teacher: The Beginning of *Charlotte's Web*" (Critical Readings)

Fantasy

Unit 19: J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit*

Unit 20: C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

Unit 21: J.K. Rowling, *Harr*

Telephone:

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 conversation. Either I will call you (if the call is not long-distance) or you can call me at a phone number I will give you, depending on where I am the day of the appointment. Please note that I cannot return long-distance calls.

In person:

Students who are in the London area and who would prefer to talk with me in person rather than by telephone or e-mail may e-mail me to set up a time that is convenient for both of us to meet at my office on campus.

Please do not hesitate to contact me to talk or ask questions about anything, including assignments, difficulties you are having with the course, suggestions for further reading, or clarification and expansion of issues raised in the readings or lecture notes. Unfortunately, most students wait until the last minute or until all hell is breaking loose before consulting their instructors. Please see me well ahead of deadlines and the onset of nervous breakdowns.

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.

Downloadable Student Medical Certificate (SMC):

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

