WESTERN UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH & WRITING STUDIES

Summer 2014

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Note: this is a preliminary course syllabus. The finalized version will be posted on OWL the first day of classes.

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.

Learning Objectives

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

literature

recognize and understand the features of genres such as the fairy tale, the cautionary tale, nonsense, adventure, domestic fiction, and fantasy

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

READING SCHEDULE

You should complete two units for each full week of the Summer term.

Fairy Tales

Unit 1: Introduction / Traditional Fairy Tales Read the following fairy tales from Folk and Fairy Tales: Paul Delarue Charles Perrault Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm Isabelle C. Chang Giambattista Basile **Charles Perrault** Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm Charles Perrault Joseph Jacobs Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm Joseph Jacobs Madame Leprince de Beaumont

This policy remains in place for all assignments, including those worth less than 10% of a

Please note: instructors are not permitted to review medical documentation; all requests for academic accomm

e that will determine if

accommodation is warranted.

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

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 section of the website or the Tests & Quizzes folder.) 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. Post as many discussions and responses as you like.

I will be locking the discussion threads for each week so that the discussion stays on track. For example, the discussion thread for Units 1&2, which corresponds to the first full week of classes, will be locked on Sunday, May 11 at 10:00 pm EDT the 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.

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Citing Sources and Plagiarism

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a 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. This includes Internet sources. Plagiarism is a major academic offence. Further details of the University policy on academic offences can be found on pages 19-21 of the 2013 Academic Calendar .

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 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).

Steps to follow to avoid plagiarism:

1) Do as much work as possible *before* beginning your secondary research read the novel(s),

5) Titles of books should be <u>underlined</u> or *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

(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

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. 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: <u>http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/</u>

See the Guidelines for Properly Cit

English website at <u>http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergrad/MLAstyletips.html</u> for more detailed information.

Further Information for Students

For English Department regulations governing Term Work, Exams, Faculty Office Hours,

http://www.uwo.ca/english/undergrad/info-for-

students.html

University Policy on 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.