

**Carleton University
Early Summer (May to June) 2014
Department of English**

ENGL 2011A: Children's Literature – Final Syllabus

Time & Location:

Mon & Wed 11:35 AM to 14:25 PM

Please confirm time and location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Susan Cooper

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Office hours: TBA

Office: DT 1914

Course Description: A critical study of children's literature. Some historical context will be established, but the main focus of this course is children's literature as literature. Although children's literature is often dismissed as lightweight, the writers we will study are skilled wordsmiths and their stories are rich in thought-provoking ideas. We will explore the ways in which children's authors communicate ideas, and delve into the meanings of the assigned stories and novels. We will start by discussing the deceptively simple fairy tale and go on to consider adventure tales, stories about home and family, and fantasy. Students are expected to read for and discuss ideas.

General course requirements:

1. Academic Regulations 2.1 Credit: To obtain credit in a course, students must meet all the course requirements for attendance, term work and examinations as published in the course outline.

2. Extensions or exemptions may be granted in exceptional circumstances only; otherwise, assignments must be submitted or completed on due dates. Specific details are supplied in the descriptions of individual course components (see below).

3. Academic Fraud – plagiarism:

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.*" This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an

instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

4. Any important requests must be submitted in the form of a typed, hard copy formal business letter and should be accompanied with all necessary documentation (e.g. doctor's note). E-mail requests will **not** be considered. Please check that the request is clear and complete, because it will be evaluated in terms of the information and documentation supplied. This paper trail facilitates effective and fair administration of all problematic circumstances.

5. Academic accommodations: *You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term because of disability, pregnancy or religious obligations. Please review the course outline promptly and write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.*

Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Documented disabilities could include but are not limited to mobility/physical impairments, specific Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/psychological disabilities, sensory disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), and chronic medical conditions. Registered PMC students are required to contact the PMC, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that your Instructor receives your Letter of Accommodation, no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations. If you only require accommodations for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodations to PMC by the last official day to withdraw from classes in each term.

You can visit the Equity Services website to view the policies and to obtain more detailed information on academic accommodation at <http://carleton.ca/equity/accommodation>

6. Class room etiquette: Cell phones must be switched off during class. Laptop computers may be used for note taking purposes only. Lively discussion of the course material is welcome, but private conversations, texting, and all other disruptive behaviour are not. Netiquette: Virtual space such as cuLearn is an extension of the class room, and e-mail correspondence is an extension of polite conversation – the exchange of ideas must be clear, accurate, and polite, regardless of medium.

7. Students are responsible for ensuring that they are familiar with cuLearn, and that they check the cuLearn page for the course on a regular basis. Any individual technical difficulties or other problems which can be resolved within the first few weeks of classes must be resolved or called to my attention at the start of term, not belatedly. (Any system-wide problems with cuLearn will be addressed as required throughout term.)

8. Students are responsible for ensuring that they obtain copies of the required readings in a timely fashion. Any problems obtaining texts must be called to my attention within the first few weeks of term.

9. In exceptional cases, extensions may be granted. Students who face serious, foreseeable problems meeting a deadline must submit a detailed, documented request for an extension no later than 48 hours before the deadline. Only students who face unforeseeable, extraordinary problems may request an extension any later than this. Extension requests must be submitted in writing, **in the form of a hard copy (paper) business letter** – NOT an e-mail. Documents verifying the problem (e.g., doctor's note) must be stapled to this letter.

NB: The cover letter is mandatory – documents such as a doctor's note will not be accepted without it.

NOTE: Because the summer session is so short, only very short extensions are feasible, and Academic Regulation 2.6 may well come into play, i.e., students may be required to apply for a deferral of an assignment deadline through the Registrar's Office. The RO website has a list of FAQs on deferred final exams/assignments. See: <http://www.carleton.ca/registrar/special-requests/deferral/>

Note: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean. Informal individual grades will be posted on cuLearn, but **not** the final official grades.

Specific Course Requirements:

Assignments and evaluation:

Class work: 10%

Discussion forum posts: 10%

On-line quizzes: 40%

Take home examination: 40%

Class work: (10% final grade)

Due: Randomly, throughout the term.

Format: Hard copy; completed in class. A minimum of **four** assignments (may be more).

Variable – will be adapted to suit needs of class. Mostly open book. Often group work. May include in-class comprehension and writing assignments.

Class work is primarily pop work, i.e., given with no prior warning, so students are responsible for keeping track of and completing assignments.

Work must be completed within the assigned class time.

Assignment objectives: Enhancing engagement with the assigned readings and preparing students for the on-line quizzes and take home examination.

Discussion Forum Posts: (10% of final grade)

Due: See cuLearn Discussion Forums for due dates.

Format: Virtual/on-line work. A minimum of **eight** posts distributed as follows:

Four discussion forums will be created on cuLearn, one for each of the four sections of the course: (1) fairy tale, (2) adventure story, (3) domestic tale, and (4) fantasy; one or more discussion topics/questions will be posted on each of these four forums.

Students must contribute the following posts:

- **Four** answers to the questions posted by me, that is, one answer post for each forum **PLUS**
- **Four** responses to answers posted by other students, that is, one response post for each forum

Students are most welcome to contribute more than the minimum two posts per forum, but this will not off-set the requirement to contribute a minimum of two posts for each and every forum.

Detailed pointers about the optimum content and style of posts will be posted on cuLearn.

Posts will be graded according to a rubric, also posted on cuLearn.

Assignment objectives: Enhancing engagement with the assigned readings and preparing students for the take home examination.

On-line Quizzes: (40% of final grade)

Due: See course calendar at the end of the syllabus for due dates.

Format: Virtual/on-line work. **Three** quizzes posted on cuLearn. Each quiz will contain a minimum of 35 questions. Possible question formats include – but are not limited to – multiple choice, true false and short answer. Only **ONE** attempt per quiz will be permitted, but a 3-day window of opportunity to complete each quiz will be available.

Content: Quizzes will cover the assigned readings, lectures, and any notes posted on cuLearn. Each quiz will cover a block of assigned readings (see course calendar at the end of syllabus for details). Only questions about key concepts (e.g., literary terms) will be cumulative.

Quiz objectives: Ensuring students keep up with assigned reading, read thoughtfully and carefully, and grasp key concepts raised in lectures.

Requirements: Students must achieve a cumulative passing grade (combined total of at least 50%) for the quizzes in order to pass the course.

Take home examination: (40% of final grade)

Due: Last day of exam period (see course calendar at the end of the syllabus).

Format: Hard copy and virtual/on-line work. An essay approximately 2,000 words long, to be submitted both electronically and on paper.

Content: An interpretive essay, i.e., a reading based on one or more of the assigned stories (primary sources). Use of secondary sources is optional, and only a limited range of secondary sources will be permitted. Topics to be handed out at the final class. Detailed instructions also supplied separately on cuLearn.

Style: Specific details to be posted on cuLearn.

Grading criteria: Essays will be graded in terms of Content and G.U.M. (Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics).

Objective: Providing students with a means of applying and/or developing ideas covered in the course.

Requirements: This course component is **mandatory**; it must be completed in order to pass the course

ENGL2011A Required Readings

Texts (print):

Alcott, L.M. *Little Women*
Creech, S. *Walk Two Moons*
Doyle, B. *Spud Sweetgrass*
Lewis, C.S. *The Silver Chair*
Montgomery, L.M. *Anne of Green Gables*
Pratchett, T. *The Wee Free Men*
Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*.
Twain, M. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

Available at Haven Books: 43 Seneca St Ottawa, ON K1S 4X2; (613) 730-9888

E-texts (web):

Traditional fairy tales:

Abjornsen & Moe. "East of the Sun and West of the Moon." *The Blue Fairy Book*. Ed. Andrew Lang. Project Gutenberg e-text # 503 OR
<http://www.surlalunefairytales.com/eastsunwestmoon/index.html>
Beaumont, Mme de. Beauty and the Beast. Project Gutenberg e-text # 7074 OR
<http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/beauty.html>
Grimm, Bros. "Cinderella" ["Aschenputtel"], Household Tales. Ed. Margaret Hunt.
Project Gutenberg e-text #5314 OR
<http://www.surlalunefairytales.com/cinderella/stories/german.html>
Jacobs, J. "The Black Bull of Norway," *More English Fairy Tales*. Project Gutenberg e-text # 14241 OR <http://www.surlalunefairytales.com/eastsunwestmoon/stories/norway.html>
Perrault, C. "Cinderella." *The Blue Fairy Book*. Ed. Andrew Lang. Project Gutenberg e-text # 503.

Modern fairy tales

Andersen, H.C. "The Snow Queen" in *Fairy Tales of Hans Christian Andersen*. Project Gutenberg e-text # 27200
Ruskin, J. *The King of the Golden River*. Project Gutenberg e-text # 701

Other:

Crompton, R. "A Busy Day," "Knight at Arms," "William's Hobby," in *More William*.
Project Gutenberg e-text # 17125

Most e-texts available at <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks>

Please use only the specific e-texts listed on the syllabus – all editions are not equal!
Please read each assigned reading BEFORE the lecture about it
and bring a copy of the reading to class

ENGL 2011A: Calendar

May 5, 2014	Mon	Introduction & "Cinderella"
May 7, 2014	Wed	Traditional fairy tales (see e-texts list above)
May 12, 2014	Mon	Modern fairy tales (see e-texts list above)
May 13, 2014	Tue	First on-line quiz -- Fairy Tale (runs till end of day Friday, May 16)
May 14, 2014	Wed	Adventure Story: <i>Tom Sawyer</i> (Special focus on chapters 1, 4, 9, 13, 26, 31, 35)
May 19, 2014	Mon	Holiday
May 21, 2014	Wed	Adventure Story: <i>Tom Sawyer</i> & William stories (see e-texts list above)
May 26, 2014	Mon	Adventure Story: <i>Spud Sweetgrass</i>
May 27, 2014	Tue	Second on-line quiz -- Adventure Story (runs till end of day Friday, May 30)
May 28, 2014	Wed	Domestic Tale: <i>Little Women</i> : Part ONE (Special focus on chapters 1, 7, 8,9, 22)
June 2, 2014	Mon	Domestic Tale: <i>Anne of Green Gables</i> (Special focus on chapters 1, 2, 5, 9, 28, 38)
June 4, 2014	Wed	Domestic Tale: <i>Walk Two Moons</i>
June 6, 2014	Fri	Third on-line quiz -- Domestic Tale (runs till end of day Sunday, June 8)
June 9, 2014	Mon	Fantasy: <i>The Silver Chair</i>
June 11, 2014	Wed	Fantasy: <i>Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone</i>
June 16, 2014	Mon	Fantasy: <i>The Wee Free Men</i> -- Take home instructions distributed
June 26, 2014	Thu	Take-home examination due