

**Carleton University  
Fall 2013  
Department of English**

**ENGL 2011A: Children's Literature**

**Time & Location:**

**Tues & Thurs 16:05 PM to 15:25 PM**

*Please confirm location on Carleton Central*

**Instructor: Susan Cooper**

**Email: SusanAnn.Cooper@carleton.ca**

**Office hours: TBA**

**Office: DT 1914**

**Course Description:** A critical study of children's literature. Although some historical context will be established, the main focus of this course is children's literature as literature. Through lectures, discussion, and writing assignments we will explore the meanings of the assigned stories and novels, taking into account the ways in which the authors communicate ideas, i.e., the conventions and elements of fiction they employ. 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 demonstrate inferential, interpretive and critical comprehension of the assigned readings, i.e., read for and discuss ideas found in the stories and novels.

**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- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;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 can access cuLearn materials for this course and do so regularly. 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.

## **Specific Course Requirements:**

### **Assignments and evaluation:**

Class work: 10%

On-line quizzes (cuLearn): 20%

Short Writing Assignments (cuLearn): 10%

Mid-term: 25%

Essay: 35%

Informal individual grades will be posted on cuLearn, but **not** the final official grades.

**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

***Class work:*** 10% final grade

Individual and/or group work. Minimum of **five** assignments, variable content

**Format:** Variable – will be adapted to suit needs of class. May include in-class comprehension and writing assignments, either open-book or closed book, individual or group work.

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

Work must be completed within the assigned class time – no make-ups. Students may justify missed work in writing; see point 4, General Course Requirements.

**Objectives:** Ensuring familiarity and enhancing engagement with the assigned readings.

**Requirements:** Students must complete a minimum of THREE class work assignments in order to pass the course.

**Due:** Randomly, spaced throughout the term. May be held at the start or close of class.

***On-line quizzes (cuLearn):*** 20% final grade

Individual work. Minimum of **five** quizzes, covering the assigned readings, lectures, and on-line notes.

**Format:** CuLearn quizzes -- multiple choice, true/false and short answer questions.

**Objectives:** Evaluating familiarity with and comprehension of the assigned readings and key concepts addressed in class.

**Requirements:** Students must complete a minimum of THREE on-line quizzes in order to pass the course.

**Due:** Randomly, throughout the term. Quiz dates will be announced in class and via cuLearn; quizzes will be available for completion for a short window of time (usually 48 to 72 hours). Students are responsible for keeping track of and completing quizzes. Quizzes must be completed within the assigned window of opportunity – no make-ups. Students may justify missed work in writing; see point 4, General Course Requirements.

***Short Writing Assignments (cuLearn):*** 10% of final grade

Individual work. Five assignments, covering the assigned readings

**Format:** CuLearn assignments. Length of each assignment – **approximately** 250 to 350 words (no shorter than 250 words; no longer than 500 words).

**Content:** Student impressions of five of the assigned readings BEFORE they have been discussed in class. Each assignment must concentrate on a single assigned reading. Students must write about at least three of the eight novels. Only one fairy tale writing assignment (traditional and modern fairy tales inclusive) may be submitted.

Additional instructions to be posted on cuLearn.

**Grading criteria:** To be posted on cuLearn.

**Objectives:** Encouraging familiarity with and comprehension of the assigned readings.

Encouraging students to read for ideas and draw inferences. Providing instructor and students with insights into students' writing strengths and weaknesses.

**Requirements:** At least THREE short writing assignments must be submitted in order to pass the course.

**Due:** Assignments may definitely be submitted early, but must be submitted, via cuLearn Assignments, no later than midnight, two days BEFORE a reading is discussed.

Since we will start discussing most readings on a Tuesday, this means that most writing assignments must be submitted, via cuLearn Assignments, no later than midnight, the preceding Sunday. Example: Due date for an assignment on Garfield's *Smith* = midnight, Sun. Oct 13. Only assignments on Twain, Crompton, Lewis, LeGuin, and Pratchett may be submitted no later than midnight on the preceding Tuesday. Example: Due date for an assignment on Twain's Tom Sawyer = midnight, Tuesday Sep. 24.

Work must be submitted online, via cuLearn assignments. Belated submissions will not be graded, and will automatically receive a grade of zero. Given the multiple opportunities to submit work, no make-ups.

**Mid-term:** 25% of final grade

Individual work. In-class.

**Format:** 1 hour and 25 minutes.

Will test students' knowledge of all assigned readings and lecture material covered to date.

**Examination regulations apply.**

**Content:** Multiple choice, true-false, short answer, and passage identification. NO essay questions whatsoever.

**Objective:** Evaluating students' familiarity with and comprehension of texts, and key concepts introduced in the course.

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

**Date:** Tuesday, November 12

**Essay:** 35% of final grade

Individual work. Academic essay. Hard copy AND digital copies required.

**Format:** Detailed instructions to be supplied separately on cuLearn.

**Content:** An interpretive (analytical) essay, i.e., one that supplies a close reading of one or more of the assigned readings (depending on the topic selected). Close reading necessitates not just identifying key elements of texts, but discussing how and why these elements are significant. Essay topics and instructions to be supplied separately on cuLearn.

**Style:** Specific details to be posted on cuLearn.

**Grading criteria:** Essays will be graded in terms of content (thoughtfulness and plausibility of the interpretation) and G.U.M. (Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics).

**Objective:** Improving students' ability to read and write critically.

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

**Due:** Thursday, December 5 (last class).

**IMPORTANT:** The essay must be submitted **twice**, both in hard copy and uploaded through cuLearn assignments. Essays not submitted **both on paper and digitally** will not be graded, and will score zero.

- Hard copy (paper) essays must either be handed to me personally in class or left at the Department of English drop box (18th floor Dunton Tower). The date stamp on any essay submitted via the drop box will be considered the submission date. Essays cannot be left at my office.
- Digital versions of essays **MUST** be submitted through cuLearn Assignments – no other means of submission is acceptable.

The penalty for late work is 10% per day, including weekends. Since the very last day for submitting term work is December 9, any work submitted after this will receive a grade of zero.

**Extensions:** In exceptional cases, extensions to December 9 may be granted.

Students who face serious, foreseeable problems meeting the deadline must submit a detailed, documented request for an extension no later than 48 hours before the deadline (Tuesday, December 3). Only students who face unforeseeable, extraordinary problems may request an extension after this, and must do so ASAP. Although preliminary e-mails about extensions are welcome, actual extension requests must be submitted in writing, in the form of a hard copy (paper) business letter – NOT an e-mail – complete with attached documentation verifying the problem (e.g., doctor's note or other appropriate . Documents verifying the problem (e.g., medical certificate or other appropriate documentation). NB: The cover letter is mandatory – documents such medical certificates will not be accepted without it.

Students who are unable to submit the essay by December 9 must apply for a deferral of the assignment deadline through the Registrar's Office. The application for deferred assignment must:

1. be made in writing to the Registrar's Office no later than five working days after the last day of classes; and
2. be fully supported in cases of illness by a medical certificate or by appropriate documents in other cases.

Medical documents must specify the date of the onset of the illness, the (expected) date of recovery, and the extent to which the student was/is incapacitated during the time the assignment was to be prepared.

NOTE: the RO website has a list of FAQs on deferred final exams/assignments

<http://www1.carleton.ca/registrar/special-requests/deferral/>

## Required Readings

**NB: Students must read each assigned reading BEFORE the lecture about it  
and bring a copy of the reading to class**

### Novels:

Alcott, L.M. *Little Women* (ISBN:0451532082)

Garfield, L. *Smith*. (ISBN 978-0141319711)

LeGuin, U. *The Tombs of Atuan*. (ISBN: 1442459913)

Lewis, C.S. *The Silver Chair*. (ISBN 978-0064405041)

Montgomery, L.M. *Anne of Green Gables* (ISBN: 0770422055)

Pratchett, T. *The Wee Free Men* (ISBN: 0552562904)

Sachar, L. *Holes* (ISBN 978-0440414803)

Twain, M. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (ISBN: 978-0199536566)

### E-texts:

**IMPORTANT: Given the enormous differences between various editions, students MUST use the editions (versions) of the stories listed below.**

### 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 Norrøway," *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  
 Hoffmann, H. "Shock-headed Peter," "Harriet and the Matches," "Little Suck-a-Thumb," *Struwwelpeter: Merry Tales and Funny Pictures* Project Gutenberg e-text #12116

**TIP:** Project Gutenberg e-texts are easiest to find here

**<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/>**

Simply enter the e-text number (complete with the hash tag) in the *Search* field  
 at the very top right hand side of the page

## Fall Term Calendar

05-Sep-13	Thurs	Introduction
10-Sep-13	Tues	Traditional Fairy Tales: Grimm, Jacobs, Perrault (see list of e-texts)
12-Sep-13	Thurs	Traditional Fairy Tales: Beaumont, Abjornsen (see list of e-texts)
17-Sep-13	Tues	Modern Fairy Tales: Andersen (see list of e-texts)
19-Sep-13	Thurs	Modern Fairy Tales: Ruskin (see list of e-texts)
24-Sep-13	Tues	Cautionary tales: Hoffmann (see list of e-texts)
26-Sep-13	Thurs	Adventure: Twain, <i>Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i>
01-Oct-13	Tues	Adventure: Twain, <i>Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i>
03-Oct-13	Thurs	Adventure: Crompton (see list of e-texts)
08-Oct-13	Tues	Adventure: Sachar, <i>Holes</i>
10-Oct-13	Thurs	Adventure: Sachar, <i>Holes</i>
15-Oct-13	Tues	Adventure: Garfield, <i>Smith</i>
17-Oct-13	Thurs	Adventure: Garfield, <i>Smith</i>
22-Oct-13	Tues	Domestic tale: Alcott, <i>Little Women</i>
24-Oct-13	Thurs	Domestic tale: Alcott, <i>Little Women</i>
29-Oct-13	Tues	<b>Fall break</b>
31-Oct-13	Thurs	<b>Fall break</b>
05-Nov-13	Tues	Domestic Tale: Montgomery, <i>Anne of Green Gables</i>
07-Nov-13	Thurs	Domestic Tale: Montgomery, <i>Anne of Green Gables</i>
12-Nov-13	Tues	<b>Mid-term</b>
14-Nov-13	Thurs	Fantasy: Lewis, <i>Silver Chair</i>
19-Nov-13	Tues	Fantasy: Lewis, <i>Silver Chair</i>
21-Nov-13	Thurs	Fantasy: LeGuin, <i>Tombs of Atuan</i>
26-Nov-13	Tues	Fantasy: LeGuin, <i>Tombs of Atuan</i>
28-Nov-13	Thurs	Fantasy: Pratchett, <i>Wee Free Men</i>
03-Dec-13	Tues	Fantasy: Pratchett, <i>Wee Free Men</i>
05-Dec-13	Thurs	Fantasy: Pratchett, <i>Wee Free Men</i>

**Essay due**