

**Carleton University
Fall 2014
Department of English**

**English 2011A: Children's Literature
Time: Wed. and Fri. 2:35-3:55 pm
Location: UC 282 (Please confirm location on Carleton Central)**

**Instructor: Sara Jamieson
e-mail: sara_jamieson@carleton.ca
Office hours: Tuesdays, Thursdays 1-2pm
Office: DT 1819**

Course Description: This course examines a variety of texts from around the world that, if not always expressly written for children, have come to be associated primarily with child readers. Through reading, discussing, and writing about a selection of texts produced from the seventeenth to the twenty-first centuries, as well as a selection of critical and theoretical works pertaining to children's literature, students will achieve the following objectives:

- develop a familiarity with some of the dominant generic codes of children's literature, including the fairy tale, the school story, the domestic novel, the animal story, the adventure story, and the fantasy narrative
- develop the close-reading skills necessary for the analysis and interpretation of literary texts
- think critically about the ideologies, politics, and historical and cultural contexts that shape each text's representation of the place of children in society and of the process of growing up
- develop an understanding of how literary texts revisit and rewrite earlier narratives, and the ability to interpret the significance of their similarities and differences

Reading List: All texts will be available at Haven Books, 43 Seneca Street (613-730-9888)

Folk and Fairy Tales Ed. Martin Hallett and Barbara Kasarek, 4th Edition

L. Frank Baum, *The Wizard of Oz*

L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*

Salman Rushdie, *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*

Neil Gaiman, *Coraline*

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

Philip Pullman, *The Golden Compass*

Hayao Miyazaki dir., *Spirited Away* (film to be screened in class)

Highly Recommended: *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th edition

Assignments and Evaluation:

Quiz: 5% **Wednesday, Oct. 1**

Midterm Test: 25% **Wednesday Nov. 5**

Essay (6-8 pages): 30% **due Wednesday Dec. 3**

2 short Response Papers (1-2 pages each): 10% **due Wednesday Oct. 15, Friday Nov. 14**

Attendance and Class Contribution: 5%

Final Exam: 25% (scheduled exam period)

Assignment Details:

Quiz: A short-answer quiz testing your knowledge of the fairy tales discussed in class.

Midterm Test: This will take place in class and will test students' knowledge of all material covered up to that point. The format will be some combination of passage identification and short answer questions. There will be no essay component.

Essay: This assignment requires you to submit an analytical research essay six to eight pages in length. Topics will be supplied well in advance of the due date. The essay should have a thesis statement and develop a coherent argument about one or more of the works on the course, supported by secondary sources and by examples from the primary text(s). Essays will be evaluated for their content as well as for correct grammar, punctuation, and mechanics.

Short Response Papers: Two of these are to be completed over the course of the term. They each should be approximately 1-2 pages in length (double spaced, 12-point font). These do not have to be as rigorously analytical as the research essay; rather, they are meant to record student impressions of one or more of the assigned readings **BEFORE** they have been discussed in class. Correct punctuation and grammar are required; no point form allowed. These assignments are intended to demonstrate comprehension of the assigned readings, and to give me an opportunity to assess the strengths and weaknesses of your writing ability.

**Essays and response papers should conform to MLA style; see recommended text *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, or visit <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/> for information on correct MLA format.

Final Exam: This will take place during the scheduled exam period and will test students' knowledge of all assigned readings. The format will be some combination of multiple choice, passage identification, short answer, and a brief essay.

Writing Tutorial Service: Students requiring assistance should contact the Writing Tutorial Service at 411 MacOdrum Library (x. 6632, www.carleton.ca/wts)

Grading System:

Assignments in this course will be graded using the letter grading system: A-, A, A+ (Excellent); B-, B, B+ (Good); C-, C, C+ (Satisfactory); D, D+ (Minimal pass); F (Failure). Percentage conversion: A+ (90-100%), A (85-89), A- (80-84), B+ (77-79), B (73-76), B- (70-72), C+ (67-69), C (63-66), C- (60-62), D+ (57-59), D (53-56), D- (50-52), F (0-49).

Expectations:

Attendance and Participation: In my experience, students who attend classes regularly stand a far better chance of doing well in the course than those who do not. This is in part because the Midterm and Final Exams will test you specifically on material that has been discussed in class. You are expected to attend every class, read the assigned material for each class, **bring the assigned readings with you to class**, and be prepared to answer questions and engage in discussion. Perfect attendance does not guarantee a perfect grade of 5/5 on the Attendance and Class Contribution component of the course. To attain a 5/5, you must attend regularly, and make regular and thoughtful contributions to class discussions.

If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to find out what went on in your absence.

Classroom Courtesy: While the internet can be a very useful in-class tool that enhances the quality of our discussions, please refrain from randomly surfing the web and text messaging during class. These activities are discourteous to the instructor and, really, a waste of your time: why come to the class if you are not going to pay attention to it? In my experience, the students who spend most of every class giggling at something on a computer screen or a phone do not tend to do as well as those who are alert and engaged with what is actually going on.

Please stay for the duration of the class; if you must leave early, I would appreciate it if you would let me know beforehand.

Submission of Written Work: Written assignments must be submitted in class on the due date. **Do not use CULearn for submitting course work.**

E-mail submissions are allowed only under particular circumstances, and must be sent directly to my e-mail address (sara_jamieson@carleton.ca).

There is a drop-box located in the English Department office (Dunton Tower 1812). This can be used if you are unable to hand in your essay in class. **Use the drop-box at your own risk. It is your responsibility to ensure that your essay reaches me; in the highly unlikely event that an essay left in the drop box does not make its way to my mailbox, you must be able to submit an electronic copy of the essay as soon as this is brought to your attention.**

Please ensure that you save a copy of your essay in the unlikely event that it is lost after you hand it in.

Late Penalty: The penalty for late submissions is 2% per day late. In case of illness or emergency, a doctor's note or appropriate document must be provided in order for an extension to be granted.

ACADEMIC DISHONESTY (PLAGIARISM):

Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of others as one's own. Plagiarism includes 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. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, and material on the Internet.

Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to:

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, paraphrased material, algorithms, formulae, scientific or mathematical concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;

failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks.

The consequences for plagiarism are severe: they can include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university, and are issued by the Dean and the University Senate. For details consult the section on Instructional Offenses in the Undergraduate Calendar.

Academic Accommodation

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 Nov. 11, 2011 for the Fall term and March 7, 2012 for the Winter 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>.

Students with disabilities: contact Paul Menton Centre (6608) to obtain letters of accommodation.

For Religious Observance: To be worked out on individual basis with instructor. Contact Equity Services Website or an Equity Advisor (5622) for Policy and list of Holy Days.

(www.carleton.ca/equity)

For Pregnancy: Contact Equity Services (5622) to obtain letters of accommodation

Class Schedule:

Week One:

Friday, September 5: Welcome and Introduction

Week Two: Fairy Tales

Wed. Sept. 10: Little Red Riding Hood

“The Story of Grandmother” by Paul Delarue (Folk and Fairy Tales, 32)

“Little Red Riding Hood” by Charles Perrault (F & FT, 33)

“Little Red Cap” by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm (F & FT, 35)

“Wolf,” by Francesca Lia Block (F & FT, 55)

Criticism: “The Fairy Tale Hero: The Image of Man in the Fairy Tale” by Max Lüthi (F & FT, 315)

Fri. Sept. 12: Sleeping Beauty

“Sun, Moon, and Talia” by Giambattista Basile (F & FT, 67)

“The Sleeping Beauty in the Wood” by Charles Perrault (F & FT, 71)

“Brier Rose,” by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm (F & FT, 77)

“The Ninth Captain’s Tale,” *Arabian Nights* (F & FT, 84)

Criticism: “The Struggle for Meaning” by Bruno Bettelheim (F & FT, 323)

Week Three: Fairy Tales

Wed. Sept. 17: Cinderella

“Cinderella: Or the Glass Slipper,” by Charles Perrault (F & FT, 97)

“Vasilisa the Beautiful,” by Aleksandr Afanas’ev (F & FT, 102)

“Cap o’ Rushes” by Joseph Jacobs (F & FT, 108)

“The Wicked Stepmother’s Lament,” by Sara Maitland (F & FT, 130)

Criticism: "Feminism and Fairy Tales," by Karen Rose (F & FT, 342)

Fri. Sept. 19:

"Beauty and the Beast," by Madame Leprince de Beaumont (F & FT, 171)

"The Emperor's New Clothes," by Hans Christian Andersen (F & FT, 235)

"The Happy Prince," by Oscar Wilde (F & FT, 250)

Criticism: "What Fairy Tales Tell Us," by Alison Lurie (F & FT, 359)

Week Four: Disney and the Fairy Tale

Wed. Sept. 24:

Tangled (film to be screened in class)

Fri. Sept. 26: "Rapunzel," by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm (F & FT, 154)

Criticism: "Disney Revisited, Or, Jiminy Cricket, It's Musty Down Here!," by Betsy Hearne (F & FT 386)

Week Five:

Wed. Oct. 1: Quiz on Fairy Tales

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz

Fri. Oct. 3: *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*

Week Six:

Wed. Oct. 8: *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*

Fri. Oct. 10: *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*

Week Seven:

Wed. Oct. 15: *Anne of Green Gables*

First Response Paper Due (must respond to a text not yet discussed in class, i.e. *Anne of Green Gables* onward)

Fri. Oct. 17: *Anne of Green Gables*

Week Eight:

Wed. Oct. 22: *Spirited Away* (film to be screened in class)

Fri. Oct. 24: *Spirited Away*

Fall Break: no classes

Week Nine:

Wed. Nov. 5: Midterm Test

Fri. Nov. 7: *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*

Week Ten:

Wed. Nov. 12: *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*

Fri. Nov. 14: *Coraline*

Second Response Paper Due (must respond to a text not yet discussed in class, i.e. *Coraline* onwards)

Week Eleven:

Wed. Nov. 19: *Coraline*

Fri. Nov. 21: *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*

Week Twelve:

Wed. Nov. 26: *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*

Fri. Nov. 28: *The Golden Compass*

Week Thirteen:

Wed. Dec. 3: *The Golden Compass*

Final Essay Due

Fri. Dec. 5: Exam Review