

Carleton University
Winter 2015
Department of English

ENGL 2011B: Children's Literature – Final Syllabus
Time: Tuesdays and Thursdays 4:05 to 5:25 PM
Location: Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Susan Cooper
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Office hours: Thursdays 2:45 to 3:45 PM
Office: DT 1914

Please confirm time on cuLearn page for course

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. 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, unpacking 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 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). See also General course requirement # 9.
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- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;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. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:*

Pregnancy obligation: *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. For more details see the [Student Guide](#).*

Religious obligation: *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. For more details see the [Student Guide](#).*

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: *The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation.*

If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable).

After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the [PMC website](#) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

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.

IMPORTANT: 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. See also General course requirement # 4.

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

NOTE: Sometimes Academic Regulation 2.6 may 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/>

Specific Course Requirements:

Assignments and evaluation:

Class work: 10%

On-line work: 20%

Essay: 40%

Final examination: 30%

Marks for individual assignments will be posted on cuLearn, but not calculated grades and definitely **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)

Due: Randomly, throughout the term.

Approximately five assignments will be assigned (could well be more).

Class work is primarily pop work, i.e., given with no prior warning. It may be assigned at any time during a class. Students are responsible for keeping track of and completing assignments. Work must be completed within the assigned class time, not belatedly. No make-ups permitted. Students who miss a class work assignment for medical or other valid reasons may request an exemption from it, *following the protocol set out in General Course Requirements 4 and 9.*

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 objectives: Ensuring familiarity and enhancing engagement with the assigned readings; enabling both student and instructor to gain insight into individual strengths and weaknesses in interpretation and writing skills; preparing students to write the essay and the exam.

On-line work: (20% of final grade)

Due: Randomly, throughout the term.

Approximately five assignments will be posted on the cuLearn page for this course (could well be more).

Advance notification of on-line work will be given in a variety of ways, including in class and email announcements; however, students are advised to check cuLearn page for new assignments regularly as well. Students are responsible for keeping track of and completing assignments. Work must be completed within the assigned time. No make-ups permitted.

Students who miss an on-line assignment for medical or other valid reasons may request an exemption from it, *following the protocol set out in General Course Requirements 4 and 9.*

Format: Variable – will be adapted to suit needs of class: may include short virtual quizzes and comprehension exercises. Possible formats include – but are not limited to – multiple choice,

true false and short answer questions. A 48-hour window of opportunity (minimum) will be provided to complete each assignment. **Caveat:** On-line assignments will often run over the weekend (all day Saturday and Sunday).

Content: On-line work will cover all aspects of the course, including the assigned readings, lectures, any notes posted on cuLearn, essay-writing strategies, protocols and more.

On-line work objectives: Ensuring students keep up with assigned readings, read thoughtfully and carefully, and grasp key concepts raised in lectures; preparing students to write the essay and the exam.

Essay: (40% of final grade)

Due: Last day of class.

Format: An interpretive essay approximately 2,000 words long.

Content: An interpretation of one or more of the assigned readings. Topics to be posted separately on cuLearn. 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 (strength of interpretation) and G.U.M. (Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics).

Objective: Providing students with a means of demonstrating their ability to apply and/or develop ideas covered in the course and their writing skills.

Requirements: This is a **mandatory** course component; it must be completed in order to pass the course. Students who fail to submit the essay may not write the final examination.

Final examination: 30% of final grade

Date: Some time during examination period. TBA on Carleton Central and cuLearn.

Format: 2 hours. Will test students' knowledge of all assigned readings and lecture material covered to date. **Examination regulations apply.** See <http://carleton.ca/ses/exams/examination-procedures/examination-regulations/>

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 covered in the course.

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

Required Readings

Texts (hard copy):

Alcott, L.M. *Little Women* (complete, unabridged edition)*
 Creech, S. *Walk Two Moons*
 Datlow, Ellen and Terri Windling (eds) *Troll's Eye View: A Book of Villainous Tales*.
 Montgomery, L.M. *Anne of Green Gables* (complete, unabridged edition)
 Paulsen, G. *Harris and Me*
 Pratchett, T. *The Wee Free Men*
 Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. (UK edition, US edition also acceptable)
 Twain, M. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (complete, unabridged edition)

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

***CAVEAT:** In North America *Little Women* comprises not one but two novels, identified as Part One and Part Two. **We will only be studying Part One.**

E-texts:

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 Norrway," *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

FYI

(1) Project Gutenberg e-texts can be found 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
 (2) **IMPORTANT: Read the exact e-text edition assigned.** Most fairy tales appear in countless editions, which differ enormously. All versions of "Cinderella" et al are not equal, so make sure you read the editions we will be studying.

NB: Students must read each assigned reading BEFORE the class in which we study it *and* bring a copy of the reading to class (to consult as needed/required)

ENGL 2011B: Children's Literature Calendar

06/01/15	Tues	Introduction	
08/01/15	Thur	Traditional Fairy Tales: Grimm, Jacobs, Perrault (see list of e-texts)	
13/01/15	Tues	Traditional Fairy Tales: Beaumont, Abjornsen (see list of e-texts)	
15/01/15	Thur	Modern Fairy Tales: Andersen (see list of e-texts)	
20/01/15	Tues	Modern Fairy Tales: Ruskin (see list of e-texts)	
22/01/15	Thur	Cautionary tales: Hoffmann (see list of e-texts)	
27/01/15	Tues	Adventure: Twain, <i>Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i>	
29/01/15	Thur	Adventure: Twain, <i>Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i>	
03/02/15	Tues	Adventure: Twain, <i>Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i>	
05/02/15	Thur	Adventure: Crompton, William Stories (see list of e-texts)	
10/02/15	Tues	Adventure: Paulsen, <i>Harris and Me</i>	
12/02/15	Thur	Adventure: Paulsen, <i>Harris and Me</i>	
17/02/15 & 19/02/15		Winter Break	
24/02/15	Tues	Domestic tale: Alcott, <i>Little Women</i> (Part One only)	
26/02/15	Thur	Domestic tale: Alcott, <i>Little Women</i> (Part One only)	
03/03/15	Tues	Domestic Tale: Montgomery, <i>Anne of Green Gables</i>	
05/03/15	Thur	Domestic Tale: Montgomery, <i>Anne of Green Gables</i>	
10/03/15	Tues	Domestic Tale: Creech, <i>Walk Two Moons</i>	
12/03/15	Thur	Domestic Tale: Creech, <i>Walk Two Moons</i>	
17/03/15	Tues	Fantasy: Rowling, <i>Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone</i>	
19/03/15	Thur	Fantasy: Rowling, <i>Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone</i>	
24/03/15	Tues	Fantasy: Pratchett, <i>Wee Free Men</i>	
26/03/15	Thur	Fantasy: Pratchett, <i>Wee Free Men</i>	
31/03/15	Tues	Modern Fairy Tales: Selections from <i>Troll's-Eye View</i> (see cuLearn)	
02/04/15	Thur	Modern Fairy Tales: Selections from <i>Troll's-Eye View</i> (see cuLearn)	
07/04/15	Tues	Modern Fairy Tales: Selections from <i>Troll's-Eye View</i> (see cuLearn) Review. <u>Essay due</u>	
11/04/15	Sat	Start of Exam Period	specific details of final exam TBA on
23/04/15	Thur	End of Exam Period	Carleton Central and cuLearn when available