

**Carleton University
Summer 2017
Department of English**

Preliminary Course Outline: ENGL 2011A: *Children's Literature*

Prerequisite(s): 1.0 credit in ENGL at the 1000 level or permission of the department
Preclusions: This course precludes additional credit for ENGL 2006 (no longer offered).

Monday & Wednesday / 11:35AM to 14:25PM
Location: *Please confirm location on Carleton Central*

Instructor: Susan Cooper
Email: SusanAnn.Cooper@carleton.ca
Office: DT 1914
Office Hours: *To Be Posted on cuLearn*

Course Description: As C.S. Lewis famously pointed out: "A children's story that can only be enjoyed by children is not a good children's story in the slightest." The focus of this course is children's literature as literature: writing characterized by skilful techniques and thought-provoking content. Beginning with the deceptively simple fairy tale and continuing on to stories about home and family, adventure tales, and fantasy, we will study the formats and elements of fiction used by children's writers to explore a range of important themes, including (but not limited to) the child and childhood. Although some necessary historical context will be discussed, for the most part we will be uncovering and discussing the ideas implicit in the assigned readings.

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 - reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;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: <http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf>

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: <http://carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf>

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): <http://carleton.ca/pmc/>

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 students encounter within the first few weeks of classes must be reported at the start of term, not belatedly. (Any system-wide technical glitches 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 reported to me as soon as possible.
9. In exceptional cases, extensions or exemptions may be granted. Students who face foreseeable crises 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 crises 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 (subject to revision):

Assignments and evaluation:

Comprehension and Interpretation exercises: 30%

Essay: 35%

Final examination: 35%

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.

Final (i.e., official) grades will not be posted on the cuLearn page for this course, nor will running totals -- only marks for individual assignments.

Comprehension and Interpretation Exercises: (30% of final grade)

Due: Randomly, spaced evenly throughout the term. Dates to be announced in class and posted on cuLearn (except for POP in-class work). Students are responsible for keeping apprised of exercise instructions and should pay close attention to all announcements about them.

About eight (8) exercises will be assigned.

Format: Variable – will be adapted to suit needs of class. May be *group work* or *individual work*. May be *in-class work* (e.g., comprehension and writing assignments, open-book or closed book pop quizzes) or *on-line work* (e.g., open book cuLearn quizzes, comprehension and writing assignments, or even discussion forums).

Comprehension and interpretation exercises 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, preparing students to write the essay and the exam.

Essay: (35% of final grade)

Due: Last class.

Format: An essay approximately 2,000 words long in which each student provides his or her original insights into one or more of the assigned readings.

Content: Essay topics and detailed instructions to be posted on cuLearn.

Style: Specific details to be posted on cuLearn.

Grading criteria: Essays will be graded in terms of content (70%) and G.U.M. (grammar, usage, and mechanics) (30%). Essays must be carefully documented, using MLA format; *all sources*, both primary and secondary, *must be cited*.

Objectives: Students show (1) their ability to argue plausible insights into one or more of the assigned readings, (2) their ability to express themselves in precise, concise language.

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

Examination: (35% 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, lecture materials, and on-line notes.

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

Objective: Students show their familiarity with and comprehension of texts and key concepts covered in the course.

Requirements: The final examination is a **mandatory** course component; it must be completed in order to pass the course. **Examination regulations apply.** See <http://carleton.ca/ses/exams/examination-procedures/examination-regulations/>

List of Required Readings (subject to revision)

Texts (hard copy):

Aiken, Joan. *The Serial Garden*
Alcott, L.M. *Little Women* (complete, unabridged edition)
Garfield, L. *Smith*
Montgomery, L.M. *Anne of Green Gables* (complete, unabridged edition)
Pratchett, T. *The Wee Free Men*
Sachar, L. *Holes*.
Twain, M. *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (complete, unabridged edition)

All books will be ordered from Haven Books: 43 Seneca St., Ottawa, ON K1S 4X2; (613) 730-9888.

E-texts:

Links to all the e-texts listed below will be posted on cuLearn. **IMPORTANT: Read the assigned editions of the e-texts.**

Traditional fairy tales:

Abjornsen & Moe. "East of the Sun and West of the Moon." *The Blue Fairy Book*. Ed. Andrew Lang. <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/503>
Beaumont, Mme de. "Beauty and the Beast." *The Blue Fairy Book*. Ed. Andrew Lang. <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/503>
Grimm, Bros. "Cinderella" ["Aschenputtel"], *Household Tales*. Ed. Margaret Hunt. <http://germanstories.vcu.edu/grimm/cinder.html>
Jacobs, J. "The Black Bull of Norroway," *More English Fairy Tales*. <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/14241>
Perrault, C. "Cinderella." *The Blue Fairy Book*. Ed. Andrew Lang. <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/503>

Modern fairy tales:

Andersen, H.C. "The Snow Queen" in *Fairy Tales of Hans Christian Andersen*. http://hca.gilead.org.il/snow_que.html
Ruskin, J. *The King of the Golden River*. <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/33673>

Other:

Crompton, R. Excerpts from *More William*: "A Busy Day" and "William's Hobby." <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/17125>

Hoffmann, H. Excerpts from *Struwwelpeter: Merry Tales and Funny Pictures*: “Merry Tales and Funny Pictures,” “Shock-headed Peter,” “Harriet and the Matches,” and “Little Suck-a-Thumb.” <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/12116>

Course calendar (forthcoming in final course outline)