

**Carleton University
Fall 2019
Department of English**

ENGL 2011A : Children's Literature

Prerequisite(s): Second-year standing or permission of the department.

Precludes additional credit for ENGL 2006 (no longer offered).

Monday, Wednesday 4:05-5:25

Location: Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Sara Jamieson

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Office: Dunton Tower 1819

Phone: (613) 520-2600 ex. 2431

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 2-3, or by appointment

Course Description: This course examines a variety of texts from around the world that, if not always expressly created 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 genres of children's literature, including the fairy tale, the school story, the domestic novel, the animal story, the adventure story, the picture book, the graphic novel, and fantasy narratives
- develop the close-reading skills necessary for the analysis and interpretation of literary texts
- develop a familiarity with the historical and cultural contexts in which each text is situated, and about how these contexts intersect with their representations of childhood
- develop a familiarity with different critical approaches to children's literature

Reading List: Most texts will be available at Haven Books, 43 Seneca Street (613-730-9888) unless otherwise indicated.

Martin Hallett and Barabara Karasek, eds., *Folk and Fairy Tales: Concise Edition*

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

Jillian Tamaki and Mariko Tamaki, *This One Summer*

J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*

Thomas King, *A Coyote Columbus Story*

E.B. White, *Charlotte's Web*

Marissa Meyer, *Cinder*

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

Recommended Texts:

- *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 8th edition
- Carrie Hintz and Eric L. Tribunella, *Reading Children's Literature: A Critical Introduction* (excerpts from this book will be made available on ARES, but you may wish to buy the complete book)

Additional readings will be made available through ARES on the library website.

Assignments and Evaluation:

Short Writing Assignment: 15% (due Wednesday October 2)

Midterm Test: 25% (Wednesday November 6)

Research Essay (6-8 pages): 30% (due Wednesday Nov. 20)

Attendance and Class Contribution: 5%

Final Exam: 25% (scheduled exam period)

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.

Assignment Details:

Short Writing Assignment: (500 - 600 words, 2-4 paragraphs, 12 pt. font, double spaced): This assignment invites you to respond to a prompt dealing with the fairy tale materials covered in the first three weeks of class. Topics will be supplied well in advance of the due date. Assignments will be evaluated for the degree of attention paid to the details of the texts you are writing about, the quality of your observations, as well as the quality of your writing, in particular the ability to develop an argument through topic sentences and strong paragraphing. MLA format must be used.

(500 - 600 words, 2-4 paragraphs, 12 pt. font, double spaced):

Midterm Test: This will take place in class and will cover the novels *Anne of Green Gables*, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, and *Cinder*. The format will be a combination of short answers and passage identification/analysis. There will be no essay component.

Essay (1500-2000 words, 12 pt. font, double spaced): This assignment requires you to submit an analytical research essay. 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.

**Essays and other written assignments 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.

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 and Regulations:

Attendance and Class Contribution: This portion of the grade will be based on your attendance record, evidence of having completed the assigned readings, active listening, and **appropriate** participation in class discussions. **Attendance is mandatory;** there will be a sign-in sheet for every class. Perfect attendance alone does not guarantee a perfect grade (5/5). **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 final exam will test you specifically on material that has been discussed in class.**

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

Classroom courtesy: The classroom should be a safe and respectful environment for all of us, and that includes me as the instructor. No cell phones, please. Laptops are to be used for note-taking only. Please refrain from checking social media or randomly surfing the web during class. This is discourteous to the instructor and distracting for your fellow students. In my experience, the students who spend most of every class giggling at something on a screen 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.

For every class, you are expected to arrive having read the assigned readings, and to bring them with you. As you read, note the elements you find interesting. Think about connections to other texts or to issues we have been discussing in class. Bring questions. Slow and attentive reading is going to improve your ability to participate in class and your ability to retain information when it comes to the exams.

Submission of Assignments: Assignments are due IN CLASS on the due date. Alternatively, you may use the dropbox outside the English Department office (DT 1812). Use the dropbox at your own risk: if I don't find the paper in my mailbox, then as far as I am concerned, it has not been submitted. In the unlikely event that an assignment submitted to the dropbox does not reach me, you must be able to submit a copy to me as

soon as this is brought to your attention. To be safe, it's a good idea to follow up with an e-mail when you submit something to the dropbox.

Late Penalty: The late penalty is 2% per day late, including weekends. Papers more than two weeks late will not be accepted without appropriate documentation.

Bonus Marks:

During the year, you will have the opportunity to earn TWO bonus marks for attending ONE event at the **Ottawa International Writers Festival (October 24-29, 2019)** literary event outside class time. Please provide proof of attendance (a ticket stub, a selfie etc.) and two marks will be added to your final grade for the course.

For more details see <https://writersfestival.org>. You can attend any event that interests you.

Writers Festival events are FREE for Carleton students. Use your student card to reserve tickets online.

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 that cannot be resolved directly by the course’s instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts 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.

Help with your writing: The Centre for Student Academic Support provides one-on-one, assignment-specific writing advice, through drop-in or scheduled appointments of 40 minutes. Bring the assignment sheet and your outline or draft. For drop-in hours or to book an appointment, see <https://carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>

Learning support: For workshops on academic reading, writing, note-taking, proofreading, exam preparation and other topics see <https://carleton.ca/csas/learning-support-workshops/>

Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation

Please contact your instructor 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, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor 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, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

Reading Schedule

Week One:

Wednesday Sept. 4: Welcome and Introduction

Week Two:

Monday Sept. 9: Folk and Fairy Tales: Little Red Riding Hood

- “Fairy Tales” (excerpt from *Reading Children’s Literature: A Critical Introduction*, pp. 157-179; accessible on ARES)
- “The Story of Grandmother” by Paul Delarue
- “Little Red Riding Hood” by Charles Perrault
- “Little Red Cap” by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- (in *Folk and Fairy Tales: Concise Edition*)

Wednesday Sept. 11: Folk and Fairy Tales: Sleeping Beauty

- Bruno Bettelheim, “The Struggle for Meaning” (ARES)
- “Sun, Moon, and Talia” by Giambattista Basile
- “The Sleeping Beauty in the Wood” by Charles Perrault
- “Briar Rose,” by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- (all readings in *Folk and Fairy Tales: Concise Edition*)
- “Sleeping Beauty and the Airplane” by Gabriel Garcia Marquez (ARES)

Week Three:

Monday Sept. 16 : Folk and Fairy Tales: Cinderella

- Karen Rowe, “Feminism and Fairy Tales” (posted on CU Learn)
- “Cinderella: Or the Little Glass Slipper” by Charles Perrault
- “Vasilisa the Beautiful” by Aleksandr Afanas’ev
- “Cap o’ Rushes” by Joseph Jacobs
- (all readings in *Folk and Fairy Tales: Concise Edition*)

Wednesday Sept. 18: Literary Fairy Tales

- Jeanne-Marie LePrince de Beaumont, “Beauty and the Beast” (ARES)
- Hans Christian Andersen, “The Emperor’s New Clothes” (ARES)
- Oscar Wilde, “The Happy Prince” (ARES)

Week Four: Disney and the Fairy Tale: *Tangled* and “Rapunzel”

Monday Sept. 23:

- Byron Howard and Nathan Greno, dir. *Tangled* (film screened in class)

Wednesday Sept. 25: tangled, Rapunzel,

- Betsy Hearne, “Disney Revisited, or, Jiminy Cricket it’s Musty Down Here”
- *Tangled*, continued
- “Rapunzel” by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
(all readings in *Folk and Fairy Tales: Concise Edition*)

Week Five: Historicizing Childhood; *Anne of Green Gables*

Monday Sept. 30:

- “Historicizing Childhood” (excerpt from *Reading Children’s Literature: A Critical Introduction*, pp. 41-70, ARES)
- L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

Wednesday Oct. 2:

- *Anne of Green Gables* continued
- **Short Writing Assignment due**

Week Six: The Domestic Novel, The School Story

Monday Oct. 7:

- *Anne of Green Gables* continued

Wednesday Oct. 9:

- J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*

Week Seven: The School Story continued

Monday Oct. 14:

Thanksgiving Day (no class)

Wednesday Oct. 16:

- *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*

☺ **Fall Break: No Classes** ☺

Week Eight: Finishing Harry Potter; Young Adult Dystopian Fantasy

Monday Oct. 28:

- *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*

Wednesday Oct. 30:

- Marissa Meyer, *Cinder*

Week Nine: Young Adult Dystopian Fantasy continued

Monday November 4:

- *Cinder* continued

Wednesday November 6:

- Midterm Test (covers *Anne of Green Gables*, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*, and *Cinder*)

Week Ten: The Picture Book; The Graphic Novel

Monday November 11:

- Thomas King, “A Coyote Columbus Story”

Wednesday November 13:

- Scott McLeod, excerpt from *Understanding Comics* (ARES)
- Jillian Tamaki, Mariko Tamaki, *This One Summer*

Week Eleven: The Graphic Novel, continued

Monday November 18:

- *This One Summer* continued

Wednesday November 20: Research Essay Due

- *This One Summer* continued

Week Twelve: The Animal Story

Monday November 25:

- *Charlotte’s Web*

Wednesday November 27:

- *Charlotte’s Web*

Week Thirteen: Adventure and Fantasy On Screen

Monday December 2:

- Hayao Miyazaki, *Spirited Away*

Wednesday Dec. 4

- *Spirited Away* continued

Friday Dec. 6:

- Exam Review