

Carleton University
Winter 2018
Department of English

ENGL 2011A : Children's Literature

Precludes additional credit for ENGL 2006 (no longer offered).
Prerequisite(s): second-year standing or permission of the department.

Tuesday, Thursday: 1:05-2:25

Location: Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Sara Jamieson
Email: sara_jamieson@carleton.ca
Office: Dunton Tower 1819
Phone: (613) 520-2600 ex. 2431
Office Hours: TBA

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 coming-of-age novel, the domestic novel, the animal story, the adventure story, the picture book, the graphic novel, 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

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

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

Jillian Tamaki and Mariko Tamaki, *Skim*

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

Thomas King, *A Coyote Columbus Story* (on reserve in library)
E.B. White, *Charlotte's Web*
Neil Gaiman, *Coraline*
Hayao Miyazaki dir., *Spirited Away* (film to be screened in class)
C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe*

Recommended: *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 8th edition

Assignments and Evaluation:

Test on fairy tales: 10% (Thursday, January 25)
Midterm Test: 20% (Tuesday, February 27)
Essay (6-8 pages): 25% (Thursday, April 5)
2 short Response Papers: 10% (Tuesday, February 13; Tuesday, March 20)
Attendance and Class Contribution: 5%
Final Exam: 30% (scheduled exam period)

Assignment Details:

Test on Fairy Tales: A short-answer test evaluating 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 3 pages in length (double spaced, 12-point font). They will require you to respond to a question/topic dealing with the assigned readings. Topics/questions will be issued well in advance of the due date. 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.

Bonus Marks: Celebrated Canadian children's author Kenneth Oppel will be appearing as part of the Ottawa International Writers Festival on Monday Oct. 3 at 6pm at Southminster United Church (15 Aylmer Ave.). Writers Festival events are FREE for Carleton students with a valid student ID. See <http://www.writersfestival.org/events/fall-2016/every-hidden-thing-with-kenneth-oppel> for details. Students who attend this event and submit a brief (one page) response paper will receive 2 bonus marks added to their final grade for the course. You must provide a ticket stub or other proof of attendance.

Writing Services: Students requiring assistance should contact the Centre for Student Academic Support, 4th floor MacOdrum Library (x. 1125, www.carleton.ca/csas/writingservices/)

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.

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; IF YOU FAIL TO CONFIRM THAT I HAVE RECEIVED THE ESSAY BY THE DUE DATE, NORMAL LATE PENALTIES WILL APPLY. 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.

REQUEST 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: 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).

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.

Reading Schedule

Week One:

Tuesday, January 9: Welcome and Introduction

Thursday, January 11: Folk and Fairy Tales: Little Red Riding Hood

“The Story of Grandmother” by Paul Delarue

“Little Red Riding Hood” by Charles Perrault

“Little Red Cap” by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm

“Wolf,” by Francesca Lia Block

(all readings posted on ARES)

Week Two:

Tuesday, January 16: Folk and Fairy Tales: Sleeping Beauty

“Sun, Moon, and Talia” by Giambattista Basile

“The Sleeping Beauty in the Wood” by Charles Perrault

“Briar Rose,” by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm

“Sleeping Beauty and the Airplane” Gabriel Garcia Marquez

(all readings posted on ARES)

Thursday, January 18: Walt Disney and the Fairy Tale

Tangled (film to be screened in class)
“Rapunzel” by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm (posted on ARES)

Week Three: Disney and the Fairy Tale cont.

Tuesday, January 23:

Tangled (film to be screened in class)
“Rapunzel” by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm (posted on ARES)

Thursday, January 25: The Domestic Novel

Quiz on Folk and Fairy Tales

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

Week Four: The Domestic Novel continued

Tuesday, January 30:

Anne of Green Gables

Thursday, February 1:

Anne of Green Gables

Week Five: Coming of Age and the Graphic Novel

Tuesday, February 6:

Gillian and Mariko Tamaki, *Skim*

Thursday, February 8:

Skim, continued

Week Six: Picture Books

Tuesday, February 13:

First Response Paper Due

Skim, continued

Thursday, February 15:

Thomas King, *A Coyote Columbus Story* (on reserve at library)

☺ **READING WEEK: NO CLASSES** ☺

Week Seven: The School Story

Tuesday, February 27: Midterm Test

Thursday, March 1:

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

Week Eight: The School Story, continued

Tuesday, March 6:

Harry Potter, continued

Thursday, March 8:

Harry Potter, continued

Week Nine: Coming of Age and the Gothic

Tuesday, March 13:

Neil Gaiman, *Coraline*

Thursday, March 15:

Coraline, continued

Week Ten: Adventure and Fantasy on Screen

Tuesday, March 20:

Second Response Paper due

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

Thursday, March 22:

Spirited Away, continued

Week Eleven: Adventure and Fantasy

Tuesday, March 27:

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

Thursday, March 29:

The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe continued

Week Twelve: The Animal Story

Tuesday, April 3:

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

Thursday, April 5:

Charlotte's Web continued

Week Thirteen: Wrap-Up

Research Essay Due

Tuesday, April 10: Exam Review