

Department of English & Writing Studies

Children's Literature
English 2033E (650)
Fall/Winter 2022-23

Instructor: Dr. Clarissa Suranyi
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Course Delivery Type: Online
Asynchronous

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Antirequisite: English 2730F/G (King's University College)

Please read the following information completely and carefully. You are responsible for it.

Course Description

This course provides a survey of children's literature, exploring texts written for children from a number of different perspectives. Some attention will be given to the historic evolution of children's literature, but the principal aim of the course will be to consider the nature and development of the major genres: fairy tales, nonsense, adventure fiction, the domestic novel, fantasy, and animal stories. A central focus will be the assumptions about children and childhood that shape these texts, all produced by adults based on what they believe children enjoy, want, or need.

Important information about this online course:

This course demands as much time and effort from you as a conventional lecture-based university course in literature. You are expected to read the course materials and to engage with the material, the instructor, and the other students in the course regularly, as you would in a regular classroom. You should devote a minimum of ten hours per week to the course in order to keep up with the reading and complete the assignments. Assignments must be submitted online, so be sure to work out any technical problems quickly by contacting ITS at 519-661-3800 or through the OWL Help page.

This course is designed for OWL, which operates as an online classroom. You must ensure that you have access to the internet on a regular and consistent basis. (Thus, if there is a service interruption to your internet connection at home, you are expected to find another way to access the course materials and meet deadlines.)

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course, the successful student will be able to . . .

- Place individual texts in their context within the historical development of children's literature;
- Recognize and understand the features of genres such as the fairy tale, the cautionary tale, nonsense, adventure, domestic fiction, and fantasy;
- Display a knowledge of several classic children's novels, as well as more recent contributions to the genre;
- Analyze texts employing the skills of literary analysis, considering features such as narrative technique, symbolism, rhyme and rhythm, layout and illustrations, etc.;
- Understand the political, religious, moral, and philosophical underpinnings of the books on the course;
- Communicate ideas effectively in writing (through discussion posts and persuasive essays);
- Develop a specific, focused argument and support it with textual evidence.

Course Materials

The course texts are listed in the Reading Schedule below in the order we'll discuss them. You must purchase each of them separately: refer to the Western Bookstore textbook search to see the specific editions you'll need. For more information about reading deadlines and editions, consult the Getting Started tab and the General Discussion forum on our OWL course site.

Methods of Evaluation

Thesis/Outline for Essay 1	Due Oct. 3	100-500 words	5%
Essay 1	Due Nov. 7	1500 words	15%
Thesis/Outline for Essay 2	Due Jan. 30	100-500 words	10%
Essay 2	Due Mar. 13	2000 words	25%
Quizzes			5%
Participation		500 words*	10%
Final exam	TBA (April Examination period)		30%

*This is the cumulative minimum number of words required for all forum postings in the course, not the minimum number per posting.

Note: The Department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <https://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>

Reading Schedule

You must complete one unit for each full week of the Fall/Winter term. **Always read ahead whenever possible.**

Fairy Tales

Unit 1: Introduction / Traditional Fairy Tales

Read the following fairy tales from *Folk and Fairy Tales*:

- "The Story of Grandmother" – Paul Delarue
- "Little Red Riding Hood" – Charles Perrault
- "Little Red Cap" – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- "Lon Po Po: A Red-Riding Hood Story from China" – Ed Young
- "Sun, Moon, and Talia" – Giambattista Basile
- "The Sleeping Beauty in the Wood" – Charles Perrault
- "Brier Rose" – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- "Cinderella: Or the Glass Slipper" – Charles Perrault
- "Ashputtle" – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- "Hansel and Gretel" – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- "Snow White" – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- "Rapunzel" – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- "Jack and the Beanstalk" – Joseph Jacobs
- "Beauty and the Beast" – Madame Leprince de Beaumont
- "The Brave Little Tailor" – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm
- "Puss in Boots" – Charles Perrault
- "Bluebeard" – Charles Perrault
- "Rumpelstiltskin" – Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm

Unit 2: Revisionist Fairy Tales

Robert Munsch, *The Paper Bag Princess*

Emma Donoghue, "The Tale of the Handkerchief" (available in the Learner Resources folder on our OWL course site)

Read the following stories from *Folk and Fairy Tales*:

"The Company of Wolves" – Angela Carter

"When the Clock Strikes" – Tanith Lee

Unit 3: Natalie Babbitt, *Tuck Everlasting*

Nonsense

Unit 4: Elizabeth Matterson, comp. *This Little Puffin* (OR, read the nursery rhymes here:

<http://www.hubbardscupboard.org/nursery-rhyme-words>)

Dennis Lee, *Alligator Pie*

Unit 5: Edward Lear, *The Complete Nonsense of Edward Lear*

Read the following poems and stories:

"Self-Portrait of the Laureate of Nonsense"

All limericks (these can also be found in *A Book of Nonsense* at

<http://www.nonsenselit.org/Lear/learwk.html>)

"The Owl and the Pussy-Cat"

"The Jumblies"

"The Story of the Four Little Children Who Went Round the World"

"The Dong with the Luminous Nose"

"The Pobble Who Has No Toes"

Unit 6: Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass*

Adventure

Unit 7: Robert Louis Stevenson, *Treasure Island*

Unit 8: Beatrix Potter, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*

Unit 9: J.M. Barrie, *Peter Pan*

Realism

Unit 10: E. Nesbit, *The Story of the Treasure Seekers*

Unit 11: John Boyne, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*

Unit 12: Louise Fitzhugh, *Harriet the Spy*

The Domestic Novel

Unit 13: Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women*

Unit 14: L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

Unit 15: Frances Hodgson Burnett, *The Secret Garden*

Unit 16: Laura Ingalls Wilder, *Little House on the Prairie*

Animals

Unit 17: Kenneth Grahame, *The Wind in the Willows*

Unit 18: E.B. White, *Charlotte's Web*

Fantasy

Unit 19: C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

Unit 20: Philippa Pearce, *Tom's Midnight Garden*

Unit 21: J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*

Unit 22: Lois Lowry, *The Giver*

Unit 23: Neil Gaiman, *Coraline*

Unit 24: Roald Dahl, *Matilda*

How to Proceed:

Click on the Getting Started tab on the left-hand menu bar on our OWL course site, which explains how to navigate through the course. Always read the texts assigned for each unit before reading the lecture notes.

Quizzes:

By the end of every even-numbered unit, you will be required to complete a quiz containing ten multiple-choice questions testing your knowledge of the texts covered in those two units. (For exact due dates, consult the Calendar or the Tests & Quizzes folder on our OWL site.) The questions will focus on content rather than interpretation; if you have read the material, you should have no difficulty answering the questions. You may keep your books handy and consult them freely, but you will be limited to ten minutes to complete each quiz.

Your final Quizzes mark will be the average of your 10 best quizzes (there are 12 quizzes total). Quiz deadlines cannot be extended for individual students for any reason. Because only your top ten quiz marks count towards your grade, you can skip two quizzes due to illness or other unavoidable circumstances. If illness requires you to miss more than two quizzes, you must contact your academic counsellor in the dean's office of your home faculty for accommodation.

Forum Discussions and the Participation Grade:

Your participation mark will be the average of two marks assigned, one at the end of Unit 12 and the other at the end of Unit 24. For full credit, you must post 10 substantial posts in each term (Fall and Winter). What constitutes a substantial post is explained in the grading criteria for discussion postings in the Learner Resources folder. Discussion questions are posted at the end of the lecture notes for each unit as well as in the Forums. You may use these questions to get a discussion of a text started, or you can raise new questions or issues about the text.

I will be locking the discussion threads for each week so that the discussion stays on track. For example, the discussion forum for Unit 1, which corresponds to the first full week of classes, will be locked on **Monday, Sept. 19 at 8:00 am EDT**. I will lock the next week's discussion on the following Monday, and so forth. Forum deadlines cannot be extended for individual students for any reason.

Self Tests:

At the end of the course notes for each unit, you will find several self-testing questions. These questions are designed to test your comprehension of the assigned reading and your grasp of the lecture material. If you have read the material, you should have no difficulty answering the questions. You may consult your books freely, of course, as these self-tests are for your own benefit.

Final Exam:

The final exam for this course will have an open-book "take-home" format. The exam questions will be posted on OWL 24 hours prior to the start of the scheduled exam time slot, and students must upload their answers to OWL prior to the end of that scheduled time slot.

Contacting your instructor:

Email:

I am happy to communicate with students by e-mail. Please allow 24 hours for a response on weekdays and 48 hours on weekends. Students must use their UWO email and check it regularly for messages pertinent to the course. Messages sent from email providers such as yahoo, gmail or hotmail will not be answered, so please use your UWO email account for messages to your instructor. In addition, please ensure that your emails conform to the rudimentary standards of university discourse: emails should use correct grammar, complete sentences, and a professional tone. Rude or harassing emails, or emails from students requesting information readily available on the course outline, will not be answered.

Telephone or Zoom calls:

Students wanting to engage in an extended conversation about the course work—discussions or questions about lecture material, essay or exam expectations or results, course readings, etc.—may e-mail me to set up a time that is convenient for both of us to have a telephone or Zoom conversation.

Assignments:

Assignments must be submitted online through OWL. Go to the Assignments tab and click on the appropriate assignment to see the instructions/essay topics and to attach your assignments. Your papers will automatically be uploaded to Turnitin simultaneously. Check to ensure your paper has uploaded properly. It is your responsibility to ensure its delivery. Assignments will not be accepted by e-mail.

Page Layout and Citation Style:

Your essays must follow MLA style in both page layout and citation style. Here is some basic information:

- 1) In the top left-hand corner of the first page, put your name, the name of your professor, the name of the course, and the date.
- 2) Number your pages in the top right-hand corner.
- 3) Double space.
- 4) If you use a snappy, attention-grabbing title, follow it up with an informative subtitle that indicates your topic and the works you will be discussing (e.g. Touching Pitch: Moral Ambiguity in R. L. Stevenson's *Treasure Island*).
- 5) Titles of novels and other long works should be *italicized*. Titles of poems and short stories should be in "quotation marks."
- 6) Introduce quotations in your own words, identifying the speaker and context: i.e. Bettelheim argues that "The fairy tale ... confronts the child squarely with the basic human predicaments" (311). Use ellipses to indicate where you have omitted material.
- 7) If the quotation is longer than four lines, do not use quotation marks; instead, indent the passage ten spaces from the left and continue to double space.
- 8) For short quotations, indicate the page number(s) in parentheses after the quotation marks and before the end punctuation. For long, indented quotations, place the parentheses after the end punctuation. Do not use abbreviations such as p. or pp. or include the author's name if the identity of the author is clear from the context.
- 9) List all the works you have referred to in a Works Cited list at the end of your paper.

There is a useful online guide to MLA style at the following address: <https://style.mla.org/mla-format/>. Should you need more detailed information, the comprehensive *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* is available at Western Libraries.

Late Penalty and Extensions:

Late assignments will be penalized 2% per day, including weekends, unless the student has received an extension. Students must ask for extensions well in advance of the due date and offer a good reason for the extension (academic workload, job schedule conflicts, and vacations are not good reasons). No extension will be given to any student on the day the assignment is due. Assignments that are more than 7 days late will not be accepted.

If you miss an exam or an assignment due date, or if you require an extension at the last minute on medical or compassionate grounds, you must notify your academic counsellor immediately and follow the procedure below.

Academic Consideration for Missed Work

For work totalling 10% or more of the final course grade, you must provide valid medical or supporting documentation to the Academic Counselling Office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as possible. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor. For further information, please consult the University's medical illness policy at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/accommodation_medical.pdf.

The Student Medical Certificate is available at

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to

<https://www.uwo.ca/health/psych/index.html> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

See <https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/> for more details.

Absences from Final Examinations

If you miss the Final Exam, please contact the Academic Counselling office of your Faculty of Registration as soon as you are able to do so. They will assess your eligibility to write a Special Examination (the name given by the University to a makeup Final Exam).

You may also be eligible to write the Special Exam if you are in a "Multiple Exam Situation" (e.g., more than 2 exams in 23-hour period, more than 3 exams in a 47-hour period).

Students should also note that individual instructors are not permitted to receive documentation directly from a student, whether in support of an application for consideration on medical grounds, or for other reasons.

Religious Accommodation

When a course requirement conflicts with a religious holiday that requires an absence from the University or prohibits certain activities, students should request accommodation for their absence in writing at least two weeks prior to the holiday to the course instructor and/or the Academic Counselling office of their Faculty of Registration. Please consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays (updated annually) at

<https://multiculturalcalendar.com/ecal/index.php?s=c-univwo>.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities are encouraged to contact Accessible Education, which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The policy on Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities can be found at:

https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/Academic_Accommodation_disabilities.pdf.

Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at the following Web site:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Statement on the use of plagiarism-checking software

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

All instances of plagiarism will be reported to the Chair of Undergraduate Studies. Proven cases of plagiarism will result in a grade of zero for the assignment. Subsequent offences will result in failure for the course.

Intellectual Property/Copyright

All instructor-written materials (e.g. lecture notes, discussion questions) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course, and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses, without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing sites like OneClass or Course Hero without permission is both an infringement of intellectual property law and a violation of academic integrity guidelines. The instructor will pass these cases on to the Western University Ombudsperson or their Department Chair as appropriate.

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <http://academicsupport.uwo.ca/>

Services provided by the USC <http://westernusc.ca/services/>