

Department of English & Writing Studies

Children's Literature
English 2033E (650)
Fall/Winter 2023-24**Delivery Type:** OnlineCourse Description

This course examines the development of literature for and about children from its roots in fairy tales, nursery rhymes, and nonsense literature. Animal stories, adventure tales, picture books, and domestic novels will be considered alongside visits to fantasy realms like Wonderland, Neverland, or the Land of Oz. 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.

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.

Methods of Evaluation

Essay 1	Due by the end of Unit 7	2000 words	20%
Essay 2	Due by the end of Unit 20	3000 words	35%
Quizzes			5%
Participation			10%
Final exam			30%

Please note: The Department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online 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>

Academic Integrity Tutorial

All students are required to enroll in and complete the Centre for Teaching and Learning's Academic Integrity Tutorial. To access the tutorial, please use the link provided in the Resource tab in the course OWL site. Once the tutorial has been completed, you will receive a downloadable certificate. You must upload the certificate and submit it through the course Assignments tab in order to complete this assignment. The tutorial must be completed by Friday in the second week of term. This tutorial is mandatory in order for you to complete and pass the course. If you have completed the tutorial already for another course, you may upload the same certificate for this course; you do not need to repeat the tutorial.

Reading Schedule

If you are taking this course during the Fall/Winter term, then you should complete one unit for each full week of the term. During the Summer term, you should complete two units per week. For exact dates, please consult the Schedule, as well as the Course Information forum. The texts listed below may be purchased from the Western Bookstore; if you have access to these texts in a different edition, you may use whatever edition you have.

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
- "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*

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

- "The Company of Wolves" – Angela Carter
- "When the Clock Strikes" – Tanith Lee

Unit 3: George MacDonald, *The Princess and the Goblin*

Nonsense

Unit 4: *This Little Puffin*

Dennis Lee, *Alligator Pie*

Read Perry Nodelman, "The Nursery Rhymes of Mother Goose: A World Without Glasses" (coursepack)

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

“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*

Read Jackie F. Eastman, “Beatrix Potter’s *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*: A Small Masterpiece” (coursepack)

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*

Read Lissa Paul, “Feminist Writer as Heroine in *Harriet the Spy*” (coursepack)

The Domestic Novel

Unit 13: Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women*

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

Read the following articles from the coursepack: Perry Nodelman, “Progressive Utopia, or How to Grow Up without Growing Up”; Susan Drain, “Community and the Individual in *Anne of Green Gables* The Meaning of Belonging”; Eve Kornfeld and Susan Jackson, “The Female Bildungsroman in Nineteenth-Century America: Parameters of a Vision”

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*

Read Jane Darcy, “The Representation of Nature in *The Wind in the Willows* and *The Secret Garden*” (coursepack)

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

Read Perry Nodelman, “Text as Teacher: The Beginning of *Charlotte's Web*” (coursepack)

Fantasy

Unit 19: J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit*

Unit 20: C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*

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

Read Alexandra Mullen, “Harry Potter’s Schooldays” (coursepack)

Unit 22: Lois Lowry, *The Giver*

Unit 23: Neil Gaiman, *Coraline*

Unit 24: Roald Dahl, *Matilda*

How to Proceed

For each unit in this course, you should begin by reading the assigned text(s) (listed above). When you have finished the book (or the stories/poems), you should click on the learning module for that unit (these can be found on the left-hand side of the course page on OWL). Within the learning module, you'll find a document containing notes on the assigned readings. These notes are designed to play the role that a lecture would play in an on-campus course.

At the end of the course notes for each unit, you will find several self-testing questions. These questions are designed to help you assess your grasp of the lecture material. In some cases, the answer can be found explicitly in the course notes; in other cases, the questions prompt you to think more deeply about the ideas presented in the notes.

You will also find several discussion questions listed below the self-testing questions. You should choose ONE question per week to respond to; these can be found within the learning module, and all the forums are also available from the left-hand menu. The Participation mark of 10% will be based on your activity in the forums; in order to receive credit, your post must contain at least one quotation from the assigned text. The forum questions for the previous week will be locked shortly after that week ends.

Additional optional readings can be found at the end of each unit. For each unit, I have provided a link to a relevant article or website that provides additional information about the author and/or text. Many of these articles contain controversial ideas; if you'd like to respond to or discuss these articles (or other issues arising from your reading), you can use the "Comment" button at the bottom of each learning module.

Marks for Forum Participation:

Your Forum Posts 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 a total of 10 substantial posts (spread out over 10 different units) in each half of the course. A substantial post is one in which you discuss something specific about the text at hand, using **at least one quotation** from the text and commenting on its significance. There is no penalty for contributing less substantial posts (such as expressions of agreement with another student or general reflections about childhood and/or children's literature), but these posts do not count towards your grade.

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 Schedule document or the welcome message on the Course Information forum.) 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 the quiz. Your mark will be based on your best 10 quizzes (out of a total of 12); this is designed to address any situations that may arise where you are unable to complete a quiz due to illness or other circumstances, as the OWL does not allow me to extend the deadline for individual students. If an illness prevents you from completing several quizzes (3 or more), you should seek academic consideration through your home faculty.

Citing Sources:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major offense (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar). Any student who commits this or any other act of academic dishonesty will receive a grade of zero and a note will be placed on his or her academic record.

Here are some steps to follow to avoid plagiarism

- 1) Do as much work as possible *before* beginning your secondary research – read the novel(s), think of a thesis statement, sketch out your argument. Write down your own ideas before reading any criticism.

- 2) Develop a note-taking style that clearly indicates what ideas are your own and what ideas are taken from another source. You can use different coloured pens, cue cards, or any other method that helps you distinguish your own ideas from those of other critics.
- 3) Feel free to disagree with any critic you are reading – don't simply regurgitate somebody else's argument.
- 4) When you are incorporating someone else's ideas into your essay, acknowledge them within the essay itself using
 - a. quotations marks (whenever you have even part of a sentence that's the same as the original)
 - b. introductory tag phrases – i.e. According to John Smith...
 As Smith points out...
 Smith observes that...
 - c. a reference in parentheses that indicates the source of the idea (often just the page number, if you've already used a tag phrase)
- 5) Cite the source in full in your Works Cited list (see guidelines below).

MLA Guidelines:

Your essays should follow the MLA format:

- 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 (i.e. Surname 1).
- 3) Double space.
- 4) If you use a snappy, attention-grabbing title, follow it up with an informative sub-title that indicates your topic and the works you will be discussing (i.e. Touching Pitch: Moral Ambiguity in R. L. Stevenson's *Treasure Island*).
- 5) Titles of books should be *italicized*. Titles of short poems, articles, and short stories should be put 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 five spaces from the left (one tab) 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. Use the following format in your Works Cited list:

Author's last name, Author's first name. *Title of Book*. Publisher, date of publication.

There is a useful online guide to MLA format at the following address:

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

General Information

1. Essays must be submitted before 11:55 pm on the due date in order to count as on time. The accepted method of submission is to upload the essay to the Assignments tool on the OWL as a document or pdf. Any essays submitted after the due date will be penalized 1 mark per day. No essay will be accepted beyond three weeks after the due date. Email is not an accepted method of submission.
2. Extensions will be granted only with support from academic counselling. Students can obtain academic consideration by submitting appropriate documentation to the academic counsellor in their home faculty (see pages 6-7 of this syllabus for more details). Please email me only after you have contacted academic counselling.
3. All grades, once assigned and/or posted, are final. While formal appeal processes do exist in the Department of English and Writing Studies, grades will not be changed after the fact in response to emailed requests and/or GPA requirements, nor will the weighting of assignments be altered for individual students.

Intellectual Property/Copyright

All instructor-written materials (e.g. PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) 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.

Accommodation Policies

Students with disabilities work with Accessible Education (formerly SSD) which provides recommendations for accommodation based on medical documentation or psychological and cognitive testing. The accommodation policy can be found here: [Academic Accommodation for Students with Disabilities](#).

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth (either alone or in combination) 10% or more of their final grade must apply to the Academic Counselling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

Documentation shall be submitted, as soon as possible, to the Office of the Dean of the student's Faculty of registration, together with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested. The Student Medical Certificate (SMC) can be found at https://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf.

The full policy is set out here:

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

Religious Accommodation:

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

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

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence.

Plagiarism Checking:

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.

Support Services

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

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

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

Academic Support and Engagement <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>

Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Health and Wellness <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

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 the 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).

Grading Rubric

THESIS

- Is there a unifying idea in this paper?
- Is this idea specific, original, and argumentative?
- Is this idea explained clearly near the beginning of the paper?

ARGUMENT

- Does the material in this paper go beyond description to explore the implications and meaning of the text(s)?
- Have opposing ideas been acknowledged and given a convincing response?

ORGANIZATION

- Do paragraph breaks reflect a meaningful shift in topic?
- Does the opening sentence of each paragraph identify the central idea of that paragraph and its relationship to the thesis?

USE OF SOURCES

- Is there textual evidence to back up each claim in the paper?
- Is there an attention to detail (word choice, imagery, etc.) that adds intricacy to the argument?
- Are quotations integrated smoothly and cited correctly?

STYLE

- Is the writing style clear, concise, and readable, so that the focus falls on the ideas in the paper?
- Are sentences punctuated correctly?

A+ (90-100) = Excellent ("Yes, absolutely!" in all categories)

A (80-89) = Very Good ("Yes" in almost all categories)

B (70-79) = Good ("Yes" or "Somewhat" in all categories)

C (60-69) = Satisfactory ("Somewhat" in most categories OR "No" in one category)

D (50-59) = Poor ("No" in several categories)

F (49 or below) = Unsatisfactory (does not meet the requirements for the assignment)