English 208A, Forms of Fantasy  
Fall 1996, Section 02

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office hours: T 1:00 - 2:30  
or by appointment

English 208A considers the history and forms of fantasy written for adults. Using Tolkien’s “Essay on Fairy Stories” and discussion of the development and conventions of fantasy in a series of short fictions, we will create a common ground of critical terms and interests with which to consider a set of longer texts. Class work will include lecture, discussion, and “workshops” on readings. No marks are assigned for attendance, but participation is expected.

Required Texts:

*The Last Unicorn*, Beagle
*The Jack of Kinrowan*, De Lint
*Like Water for Chocolate*, Esquivel
*Good Omens*, Gaiman/Pratchett
*The Princess Bride*, Goldman
*The Bridge of Birds*, Hughart
*Goblin Market and Other Poems*, Rossetti
*The Tempest*, Shakespeare
*A College of Magics*, Stevermer
*The Hobbit*, Tolkien

material on reserve at library (see over)

Assignments:

Midterm: 20%, October 10
Short Paper: 15%, due October 29
(2-3 typed pages, approximately 750 words)
Long Paper: 35%, due December 3
(5-6 typed pages, approximately 1500 words)
Final Exam: 30%, in final exam period

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Reading Schedule

September

10-12 Introduction
17 on reserve (myth, folk/fairy tales)
19 *The Tempest*
24 on reserve (romance/high fantasy, gothic/ghosts)
26 *Goblin Market*, on reserve (19th century poetry)

October

1 on reserve (“modern” fantasy)
3-8 Tolkien: “Essay on Fairy Stories” (on reserve), *The Hobbit*
10 Midterm
15-17 *Last Unicorn*
22-24 *Princess Bride*
29-31 Short Essay due; *Bridge of Birds*

November

5-7 *Like Water for Chocolate*
12-14 *Good Omens*
19-21 *Jack of Kinrowan*
26-28 *A College of Magics*

December

3 Review, Long Essay due
Creating a Canon:
oral traditions, symbols of community, and the power of words

September
17 on reserve: *myth and other godstories: folk/fairy tales*
   “The Myth of Narcissus,” Ovid
   “The Old Woman and the Storm,” McKillip
   “Jack the Giant Killer,” Lang, ed.
   “Jack and the Beanstalk,” Jacobs
   “Manypelts,” Grimm, eds
   “Red Riding Hood,” Grimm, eds

19 *The Tempest*, Shakespeare (text not on reserve)

24 on reserve: *romance/high fantasy, the gothic and ghosts*
   from *Beowulf*, trans. by Thomas
   “Rule of Names,” Le Guin
   from *Swords Against Death*, Leiber
   “The Black Cat,” Poe
   “Call Me From the Valley,” Wellman

26 *Goblin Market* (text not on reserve) title poem, plus from same text: “Dream Land,” “At Home,” “Cousin Kate,” “Spring,” “Echo,” “Up-hill,” “Paradise: In a Dream”

on reserve: *19th century poetry*
   “Lochinvar,” Scott
   “La Belle Dame Sans Merci,” Keats
   “Darkness,” Byron
   “The Tyger,” Blake
   “Westminster Bridge,” Wordsworth
   “Ozymandias,” Shelley
   “Kubla Khan,” Coleridge

October
1 on reserve: “modern” fantasy
   “The Flight of the Horse,” Niven
   “The Believing Child,” Henderson
   “The Company of Wolves,” Carter (in *Folk and Fairy Tales*)

3-8 Tolkien
   on reserve: “Essay on Fairy Stories,” in *Tree and Leaf*
   *The Hobbit* (text not on reserve)

Essays are due on the assigned dates; 3 marks will be deducted per each day of unarranged lateness. Be aware of the University of Waterloo’s policy regarding the definition of and academic penalties for plagiarism, “the act of presenting the ideas, words, or other intellectual property of another as one's own.” Essay topics and use of external sources will be discussed in class and on hand-outs.