ENGLISH 208A  
FORMS OF FANTASY

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HH 262, X3398  
Office Hours: T/R 11-12, W 11:30-12:30

TEXTS  
Beagle, P.S.  
The Last Unicorn  
Gardner, John  
Grendel  
Goldman, William  
The Princess Bride  
Kay, Guy  
Tigana  
Leguin, Ursula  
The Left Hand of Darkness  
Rabkin, E.  
Fantastic Worlds  
Tolkien, J.R.R.  
The Hobbit  
Tree and Leaf  

Recommended:  
Aaron and McArthur, The Little Brown Compact Handbook  
(Second Canadian Edition) (Royalties from the purchase of this  
book go to an English Department Scholarship Fund)

LECTURES AND ASSIGNMENTS

January  
5  
Introduction  
12  
Tolkien, Tree and Leaf, The Hobbit  
19  
The Hobbit continued  
26  
Rabkin, Fantastic Worlds  

February  
2  
Rabkin, continued  
9  
Kay, Tigana  
16  
Study Week  
23  
Leguin, Left Hand of Darkness  

March  
1  
Beagle, The Last Unicorn  
8  
Term Test  
15  
Gardner, Grendel  
22  
Goldman, The Princess Bride  
29  
Rabkin and Review  

FIRST ESSAY DUE
SECOND ESSAY DUE

ESSAYS:  
First Essay, approximately 750 words or 2-3 pages typed, due February 9,  
2004, worth 15%. Second Essay, 1500 words or 5-6 pages typed, due  
March 15, 2004, worth 35%.

EXAMS:  
Term Test, 1 1/2 hours, March 13, worth 15%.  
Final Exam. three hours, worth 35%
Course description/policies:

English 208A is a course on the various forms of fantasy literature, and because it is a literature course we will use many tools for analysing the literary qualities of the works selected. Essays are due in class on the due date. If you do need an extension you must request it at least a week before the due date, no questions asked; late submissions without prior permission will be penalized 2 marks per day, including weekends. Essays submitted more than two weeks after the due date or with no supporting documentation may not be accepted at all. The formal essays will be marked for the quality of literary interpretation and of writing. The examinations will be marked for the knowledge of the texts displayed and for the ability to find connections between them. We ask also that you observe all the conventions of reasonable and professional behaviour (ie turning off all cell phones, not creating a disturbance in class, distracting your fellow students with talk or other matters).

The Dean of Arts office requires the inclusion of the following statement on all undergraduate course outlines:

"Note on avoidance of academic offenses: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts are expected to know what constitutes an academic offense, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for their academic actions. When the commission of an offense is established, disciplinary penalties will be imposed in accord with Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71 (Student Academic Discipline) which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (p. 1: I 1). If you need help in learning how to avoid offenses such as plagiarism, cheating, and double submission, or if you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean."

Note: Undergraduate Calendar, p. 1: I I is also available at http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infoucaL/~/UW/poUcy_7 I.html

A very useful link is available as well on the Arts Faculty Web page, "How to Avoid Plagiarism and Other Written Offences: A Guide for Students and Instructors" (http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~/sager/plagiarism.html).
Selections from Rabkin: *Fantastic Worlds*  

January 26- Feb 02

“Introduction”  
“The Sources of the Fantastic”  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Genesis</th>
<th>41</th>
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<td><em>The Blackfoot Genesis</em></td>
<td>47</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>The Myth of Narcissus</em></td>
<td>66</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>The Myth of Philomela</em></td>
<td>72</td>
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| *The Magic Swan Geese* | 82  |
| *Hansel and Grethel* | 104 |

“The Diversity of Fantastic Literature”  

| *The Oval Portrait* | 190 |
| *The Garden of Live Flowers* | 194 |

| *The Black Cat* | 247 |
| *The Moonlit Road* | 284 |
| *The Sword of Welleran* | 311 |

| *The Star - Wells* | 360 |
| *The Star - Clarke* | 385 |

Selections from Rabkin: *Fantastic Worlds*  

March 29

| *There is No Such Place as America* | 443 |
| *Homage to the San Francisco YMCA* | 453 |
| *The Zebra Storyteller* | 460 |
Discuss ONE of Tolkien's four elements of tales of Faerie: "Fantasy", "Escape", "Recovery", or "Consolation", with reference to ONE of the short stories or excerpts from Fantastic Worlds, OR discuss ONE kind of "reversal" Rabkin might see in ONE of the short stories or excerpts from Fantastic Worlds.
ESSAY TOPICS 2

ENGLISH 208A
FORMS OF FANTASY

Due Date: March 15, 2004
Length: 1500 words or 5-6 typed pages
Worth: 35%

1. Tolkien says that "To make a Secondary World inside which the green sun will be credible, commanding Secondary Belief, will probably require labour and thought, and will certainly demand a special skill, a kind of elvish craft." Discuss the ways in which at least two authors on the reading list use their "elvish craft" to induce "Secondary Belief".

2. Discuss the ways in which at least two authors use and manipulate language.

3. Tolkien and Rabkin disagree on many issues, but they are in perfect agreement that a "story will be important in the measure that it engages in its Fantastic ways concerns of the real world"; Tolkien calls this 'engagement' "Recovery". Discuss some "real world" issues and how they are handled in at least two works.

4. Discuss the use or adaptation of the conventions of forms related to Fantasy or used by some of the authors on the course (at least two). Authors both follow and play against tradititional patterns—you may choose to deal with "traditional" or "untraditional" approaches to conventions.

5. LeGuin says, in the introduction to Left Hand of Darkness, that "All fiction is metaphor". Discuss the use of "metaphor" in at least two works on the course.

6. A topic of your choice with permission.