ENGLISH 208 A

FORMS OF FANTASY (FAIRY TALES AND ROMANCE)

Instructor: Prof. B. Cantar
Office: Hagey Hall, 263, ext. 3361

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Hallet, Martin and Barbara Karasek. *Folk and Fairy Tales.* (Broadview Press)
Zipes, Jack, ed. *Don't Bet on the Prince.* (Routledge)
Lewis, Mathew. *The Monk.* (Oxford World Classics)
Cartland, Barbara. *Too Precious to Lose.* (BeJo)
"A Miracle in Mexico" (BeJo)
Holt, Victoria. *Demon Lover.* (Fontana)
Spencer, LaVyrle. *Bittersweet.* (BeJo)

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This section of Forms of Fantasy will look at how significant elements of popular culture construct gender subjectivity (awareness of one's sexual differences whether male or female). Along with traditional fairy tales such as Snow White, Red Riding Hood, and Sleeping Beauty, we will read contemporary feminist rewritings of those and other popular tales. Secondly, we will read Mathew Lewis' *The Monk,* the tale that inaugurated the romantic/gothic tradition in the 19th. and 20th. centuries, and follow the line through Bronte's *Wuthering Heights* to the contemporary gothic novelist, Victoria Holt. The third part of the course will be concerned with the recent expansion of mass-market romance in an attempt to assess the potency of the fairy tale axiom, "Someday My Prince Will Come," embedded in the cultural discourse of romance exemplified by the immensely popular and financially successful writers, Barbara Cartland and LaVyrle Spenser.

The approach will be mainly indisciplinary, utilizing theory and interpretive methods from literary studies, sociology, psychology, and feminist studies.

ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING:

Revising the Fairy Tale: Feb. 10th. ........................................ 20%
Formal Essay: Mar. 20th. .................................................... 30%
Final exam ................................................................. 40%
Class attendance and participation ................................. 10%
### TENTATIVE READING SCHEDULE

1/6  Introduction
1/8  Red Riding Hood (three versions in F.F.T.)
1/10 Little Red Riding Hood, Olga Broumas in Zipes, p. 119
1/13 Wolfland, Tanith Lee in Zipes, p. 121
1/15 Sleeping Beauty, Perrault (F.F.T)
1/17 "Briar Rose," Anne Sexton in Zipes, p.114
1/20 Cinderella & Ashputtle (F.F.T)
1/22 The Moon Ribbon in Zipes
1/24 Snow White in F.F.T.
1/27 Snow White by the Merseyside Feminist Collective (Zipes)
1/29 Rumpelstiltskin; Rapunzel
1/31 "Rapunzel" Sara Haye in Zipes, 121
2/3  Russalka in Zipes, 88 (rewrite of The Little Mermaid)
2/5  The Princess Who Stood On Her Two Feet in Zipes
2/7  The beastly bridegrooms: Beauty and The Beast in F.F.T
2/10 East of the Sun and West of the Moon in F.F.T
2/12 The Donkey Prince, Angela Carter in Zipes

### 2/17 - 2/21 READING WEEK

2/24  Romance from Heliodorus to Barbara Cartland
2/26  Someone’s trying to kill me and I think it’s my husband: Bluebeard in F.F.T.
2/28  Bluebeard’s Egg, Margaret Atwood
3/2   The Monk, Mathew Lewis
3/4   "   "   "
3/6   "   "   "
3/9   Wuthering Heights, Emily Bronte
3/11  "   "   "
3/13  "   "   "
3/16  Demons and other lovers: Demon Lover, Victoria Holt
3/18  "   "   "
3/20  A terrifying adventure waited: A Miracle in Mexico, Barbara Cartland
3/23  Miracle cont’d
3/25  The way we were: Too Precious to Lose, B. Cartland
3/27  "   "   "
3/30  The way we are: Bittersweet, LaVyrle Spencer
4/1   "   "   "
4/2   Reflections, revisions, and redefinitions