Extended Course Outline

Classes: MWF 12.30, EL 110
Format: Lecture and discussion
Assignments: Reading, about 150 pages weekly
Writing, one library assignment
mid-term exam
term paper
final exam

15 marks
25
25
35
100 marks

Description:

We will study the history of children's literature in Britain, Europe and North America. The course will deal with the major types (or genres) of literature, such as nursery rhyme, nonsense poetry, fable, folk tale, fantasy, myth, and Bible stories, as well as with some Canadian materials. Although most of our time will be spent in a survey of various kinds of literature, we will look at one author in more detail, C.S. Lewis, whose critical essays are helpful and whose Narnia tales are one of the better sellers in twentieth century material produced for the mass market. All the work will be studied as literature rather than as a means of understanding children. We will discuss a critical method for the evaluation of literature, and will develop bibliographical techniques.

Texts:


C.S. Lewis, The Complete Chronicles of Narnia (Penguin), 7 volumes.

W.K. Thomas, Correct Form in Essay Writing

Class notes are available. The cost is $10.00. They consist of notes, study questions and book lists, and excerpts from Canadian children's material, and of a few critical essays.

Office: Hagey Hall, #223
Phone: 885-1211, ext 3743 or 2634 or 3358.
Hours: MWF 9:00-9:30; 2:30-5:00 or by appointment.
Class Schedule:
Mon Sept 13  Introduction: "What is Children's Literature?"
17  Nonsense Verse, pp. 132-154.
Mon Sept 20  Poetry, pp. 158-200 (selections listed on Question Sheet, p. 9).
22  Poetry, pp. 201-246 (selections listed on Question Sheet, p. 9).
24  Fables, pp. 263-281.
Mon Sept 27  Fairy Tales, pp. 284-381.
29  Fairy Tales, pp. 436-457; 498-501; 970-992.
       (Assignment 1 due.)
Oct  1  Fantasy, pp. 868-73; 878-80; 885-892; 957-969.
Mon Oct  4  The Magician's Nephew.
       6  The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe.
       8  The Horse and His Boy.
Mon Oct  11 Thanksgiving Day
       13  Prince Caspian.
       15  The Voyage of the Dawn Treader.
Mon Oct 18  The Silver Chair.
       20  Review.
       22  The Last Battle.
Mon Oct 25  Greek Myth, pp. 552-585.
       27  Norse Myth, pp. 586-610.
       29  Mid-term examination.
Mon Nov  1  Heroes of Epic, pp. 636-659.
       3  Heroes of Romance, pp. 660-678; 684-687.
       5  The Bible: Genesis; Exodus 1-20; 2 Kings 6; Daniel 1-4; Matthew 1-8.
Mon Nov  8  Luke 1-4; John 1-4, 14; Luke 22-24; Acts 1-4; Romans 1-8; 1 Corinthians 1-6, 13; Rev 1-4, 19-22.
       10  Adventure (pp. 731-856): De Jong, Spyri, Twain, Stevenson.
       12  Biography (1013-1056): Singer, Frank, Nesbit. (Term Paper due.)
Mon Nov 15  Travel (1071-1096): Hakluyt, Foster, Scott.
       17  Science (pp. 1109-1138): Bronowski, St. Exupery, Carson, Dugan.
       19  Early Canadian Animal Tales: Seton and Roberts.
Mon Nov 22  Contemporary Canadian Animal Tales: Burnford and Nowat.
       24  Ann Blades and Barbara Smucker.
       26  Gregory Clarke and Rudy Wiebe.
Mon Nov 29  Book Illustration (pp. 27-76).
       Dec  1  Violence and Pornography in Literature.
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