ENGLISH 208C
CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Instructor   Nadine Gingrich
Office       HH 226B
Extension    3886 or call the Graduate Secretary 3358

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Children's literature is not a course in child psychology or development, nor is it a guide to the selection of literature for children. Rather, it is a course that examines the literature created for, or appropriated by, a specific audience. We will examine the two large functions, didacticism and entertainment, that have traditionally been assigned to children's literature, and we will ask such deceptively simple questions as, "What is children's literature?" "Is it different from other literature?" "How do we, as adults, assess it?"

ASSIGNMENTS

There will be two essays in the course each worth 30% of the final grade, one short essay of 5-6 pages due June 14 and one longer essay of 8-10 pages due July 30. There will be a final examination worth 40% of the final grade. The essays will be marked for the quality of the literary interpretation and the writing; the examination will be marked for the knowledge of the texts and for the ability to make connections between them.
May 3

Introduction

May 10

Grimm Selected Tales  (Penguin Classics)

May 17

Carroll Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass  (Puffin)

May 24

HOLIDAY

May 31

Kipling The Jungle Book  (Oxford) *Guest speaker, Dr. Paul Beam, Department of English

June 7

Twain The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn  (Signet)

June 14

Montgomery Anne of Green Gables  (McClleland-Bantam)

June 21

Grahame The Wind in the Willows  (Signet)

June 28

Barrie Peter Pan  (Puffin)

July 5

White The Sword in the Stone  (Lions)

July 12

Leguin A Wizard of Earthsea  (Puffin)

July 19

White Charlotte's Web  (Harper) Babbitt Tuck Everlasting  (Farrar)

July 26

Raskin Figgs and Phantoms  (Puffin)

Readings from Grimm's Selected Tales:

"Rumplestiltskin"
"Hansel and Gretel"
"Little Redcape"
"Rapunzel"
"Briar Rose"
"Snowwhite"
"The Juniper Tree"
"Ashiepattle"
"Many Peits"
"The Goose Girl"