
Instructor: T. Paci
E-mail: tpacci@watarts.uwaterloo.ca
Office: HH 262
Extension: 3398
Office Hours: Tuesday, 10:30-11:20; Thursday, 10:30-11:20; or by appointment.
Room and Time: HH 280; Tuesday, 11:30-12:50; Thursday, 11:30-12:50

Course Description:
In this course, students will read and analyze several texts in the genre of children’s literature in the western tradition. Beginning with a discussion of folk and literary tales, we will then focus on texts from Great Britain, the United States, Canada and Australia written in the last century and a half. We will approach these texts from a variety of critical perspectives, assessing their historical, stylistic and cultural dimensions and importance. I will encourage students to pay particular attention to the relationship of these texts to cultural norms and to the developmental and maturation processes. We will also spend some time discussing the process of academic writing. By the end of the course, students should understand the ways in which much children’s literature appeals to and influences its audience and be able to comment on specific texts effectively in course assignments.

Owing to the large size of our class, most sessions will be conducted in lecture format. However, because student learning hinges on thinking and discussing, not just listening, most classes will have some interactive components. Students are expected to keep up with course readings and to participate in class discussions and activities.

Required Texts:
JM Barrie, Peter Pan
Eric Carle, The Very Quiet Cricket
Lewis Carroll, Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland
Anne Frank, The Diary of a Young Girl: Anne Frank
Martin Hallett and Barbara Karasek, eds, Folk and Fairy Tales
Margaret Mahy, The Man Whose Mother Was a Pirate
LM Montgomery, Anne of Green Gables
Robert Munsch, The Paper Bag Princess
JK Rowling, Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone
Lemony Snicket, The Bad Beginning
Mildred D. Taylor, Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry
EB White, Charlotte’s Web

Please Note: Many of these titles are available in used bookstores or, perhaps, on your families’ and friends’ shelves. Most are also available at university and public libraries. If you use versions other than those I have ordered, however, it is your responsibility to ensure that your texts are neither abridged nor otherwise substantively different from regular course texts. Be especially careful with Peter Pan and Anne Frank. You must also be prepared to accommodate different pagination. Other brief or complementary titles may be placed on reserve as the term progresses.
Resource for Writers:


Assignments and Evaluation:

**Option #1:**
In-class Essay, 30% (*June 15*<sup>th</sup>)
Formal Essay, 4-6 pages, 45% (*due July 20*<sup>th</sup>)
Final In-class Test: 25% (*July 25*<sup>th</sup>)

**Option #2:**
In-class Essay, 25% (*June 15*)
Formal Essay, 3-4 pages, 35% (*due July 20*<sup>th</sup>)
Final In-class Test: 25% (*July 25*<sup>th</sup>)
Collaborative Creative Assignment, 15% (*due July 20*<sup>th</sup>)

Collaborative Creative Assignment:

Students have the opportunity to work collaboratively, in groups of four or five, on an illustrated children’s story or an equivalent creative assignment. Interested students will discuss and create both text and illustrations.

Please Note:

You may submit your essay or collaborative assignment at any point throughout the term if you would like to get my feedback early.

Tentative Schedule:

May 2, 4: Course introduction, poem(s), introduction to folk and fairy tales
May 9, 11: *Folk and Fairy Tales*
May 16, 18: *Folk and Fairy Tales*
May 23, 25: *The Paper Bag Princess, Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland*
May 30, June 1: *Peter Pan*
June 6, 8: *Anne of Green Gables*
June 13, 15: *The Man Whose Mother Was a Pirate* (*in-class essay on June 15*<sup>th</sup>)
June 20, 22: *The Diary of a Young Girl: Anne Frank*
June 27, 29: *Charlotte’s Web, The Very Quiet Cricket*
July 4, 6: *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*
July 11, 13: *Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone*
July 18, 20: *The Bad Beginning* (*essays and stories due on July 20*<sup>th</sup>)*
July 25: *Final in-class test*
Course Policies:

Late Assignments: Late work will be penalized at a rate of 5% per calendar day. Requests for extensions must be made at least 24 hours before deadlines. All assignments are due at the beginning of class. I will not accept late work more than five days beyond the end of the term without medical or other appropriate documentation.

Avoidance of Academic Offences: Plagiarism, presenting the work of another as though it were one’s own, is a serious academic offence and will result in severe penalties. All sources, whether found in books, on the web, or elsewhere, must be appropriately documented through both in-text citations and works cited pages. Other offenses, such as inappropriate collaboration and double submission, will also be treated seriously. All offences will be recorded in the Office of the Dean of Arts.

The University’s Note on Avoidance of Academic Offences: All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts and its University colleges 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) which is supplied in the University of Waterloo Undergraduate Calendar (p1:10) and St. Jerome’s University Calendar (pp. 12-13). If you believe you have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized, you may[grieve this decision in accord with Policy #70, (Student Grievance, p. 13, SJU Calendar). 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, the appropriate St. Jerome’s departmental chair and ultimately the Appeals Officer (currently the Associate Dean) for St. Jerome’s University. For more information, please visit http://watarts.uwaterloo.ca/~sager/plagiarism.html, How to Avoid Plagiarism and Other Written Offenses, A Guide for Students and Instructors.

Students with Disabilities:

Students with documented or suspected disabilities (i.e., physical, learning, or sensory disabilities or chronic medical conditions) are encouraged to contact the Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD) to determine eligibility for their services. The OPD is located in Needles Hall, Room 1132 and can be contacted at 888-4567, ext. 5082, TDD/TTY 888-4044.