ENGLISH 208C  
STUDIES IN CHILDREN'S LITERATURE  

Prof. K. McArthur  
Office Hours: HH 262, T/Th 2:30-3:30  
Email: kmcarthu@uwaterloo.ca  
Phone: 888-4567 X3398  

Spring 2009  
T/Th 1-2:20pm  RCH 305  

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Studies in Children's Literature (208C) is a literature course, not a course in child psychology or a guide to the selection of books for young readers. Although we will be always mindful of the intended audience, we will examine books written for children as a literary genre. The texts selected are landmarks in the field of literature as a whole, and we shall discuss both the historical development of children's literature and the internal structure of this particular branch of the literary tree. We begin with a central artifact in the development of children's literature, Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm's Selected Tales (pub. 1823 in English), where the oral tradition of folk tales or household tales appears in printed form, and then pick up with the tradition of literary entertainment and education for children largely inaugurated by Lewis Carroll in the Alice books (1865, 1871).

COURSE POLICIES AND ASSIGNMENTS:

ESSAYS:
Students will be required to hand in two essays: First Essay, 750 words, 2-3 typed pages, due June 11th, worth 15%; Second Essay, 1500 words, 5-6 typed pages, due July 9th, worth 35%. As this course is offered through the English Department, the formal essays will be marked for the quality of literary interpretation and of writing. The essays are due at the beginning of class (1 pm) on the due dates. If not handed in at class time, essays should be submitted to the drop box in the English department. Do not put essays under office doors, fax essays to the University or send them by e-mail. Always keep a copy! Extensions will be granted for a maximum of seven (7) days (until June 18th and July 16th) – no explanation is required and no penalty will be levied – but you must request (and have confirmation of) the extension, by e-mail, no later than June 4th, and July 2nd respectively (by midnight). Please note that essays received by the due date and time will receive a grade and full explanatory remarks; those received after class time on those due dates will receive a grade only. Essays received late, for which prior extension approval was not obtained, will be subject to a two per cent (2%) per day penalty (including weekends), and no essays will be accepted after June 18th, and July 28th respectively.

EXAMINATIONS:
Students will be required to write a one-hour, in-class, mid-term exam on June 18th worth 15% of the final grade.
A 2½ hour final examination will be written in the official examination period and will cover the required readings and lecture material from the entire course, worth 35% of the final grade. The test and examination will be marked for the knowledge of the texts displayed and for the ability to find connections between them.
ENGLISH 208C

Avoidance of Academic Offenses:

The Dean of Arts Office requires the inclusion of the following statements on all undergraduate course outlines:

"Academic Integrity: In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Grievance: A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70 – Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4,

Discipline: A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity, to avoid committing academic offenses, and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about "rules" for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the Undergraduate Associate Dean. When misconduct has been found to have occurred, disciplinary penalties will be imposed under Policy 71 – Student Discipline. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71 – Student Discipline,

Appeals: A student may appeal the finding and/or penalty in a decision made under Policy 70 – Student Petitions and Grievances (other than regarding a petition) or Policy 71 – Student Discipline if a ground for an appeal can be established. Read Policy 72 – Student Appeals,

Further to the above, we expect that you will observe all the conventions of reasonable and professional behaviour (i.e. turning off all cell phones, using laptop computers appropriately, not creating a disturbance in class, and/or not distracting your fellow students with talk or other matters).

Accommodation for Students with Disabilities:

"The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term."
ENGLISH 208C

SCHEDULE AND REQUIRED TEXTS

May
5-7  Introduction
12-14  Grimm's *Selected Tales*
19-21  Carroll *Alice in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking Glass*
26-28  Kipling *The Jungle Book*

June
2-4  Twain *Huck Finn*
9-11  Montgomery *Anne of Green Gables*  FIRST ESSAY DUE
16  Grahame *Wind in the Willows*
18  TERM TEST
23-30  Barrie *Peter Pan*

July
2-7  White *Sword in the Stone* **
9-14  Leguin *A Wizard of Earthsea*  SECOND ESSAY DUE
16  Opel, *Silverwing*
21-23  White *Charlotte's Web*, Babbitt *Tuck Everlasting*
28  Review and Exam Preparation

Strongly Recommended:
(Royalties from the sale of this book go to an English Department Scholarship Fund)

*Students must* have the Penguin Classic *Selected Tales* by Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm. Other collections of folk or fairy tales may have stories with the same or similar titles, but they will be very different in content.

**Students must also use the version of *Sword in the Stone* made available for this course by the UW Bookstore. Other editions could be substantially different.

READINGS from Grimm's *Selected Tales*:

2. "Rumplestiltskin"  7. "Snowwhite"
5. "Rapunzel"  32. "Many Pelts"