ENGLISH 208C
CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Instructor       Nadine Gingrich
Office           HH 228B
Extension        3886 or call the Graduate Secretary 3358
Office Hours     12-2 p.m. Thursday

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 February 17 and one longer essay of 8-10 pages due April 8. 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.
SCHEDULE

Introduction

*Aesop*’s *Fables*, ed. Jack Zipes (*Signet Classic*) (read only those which include a printed moral)

Robert Graves, *Greek Gods and Heroes* (*Dell*)

Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm, *Selected Tales* (*Penguin Classics*)

Lewis Carroll, *Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass* (*Puffin*)

E.B. White, *Charlotte’s Web* (*Harper*)

L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables* (*McClelland-Bantam*)

Rosemary Sutcliff, *The Eagle of the Ninth* (*Puffin*)

Robert Louis Stevenson, *Treasure Island* (*Dover*)

Kenneth Grahame, *The Wind in the Willows* (*Signet*)

T.H. White, *The Sword in the Stone* (*Lions*)

Ursula LeGuin, *A Wizard of Earthsea* (*Puffin*)

Natalie Babbitt, *Tuck Everlasting* (*Farrar*)

Ellen Raskin, *Figgs and Phantoms* (*Puffin*)

Readings from Grimm’s *Selected Tales*:

"Rumplestiltskin"
"Hansel and Gretel"
"Little Redcape"
"Rapunzel"
"Briar Rose"
"Snowwhite"
"The Jeniper Tree"
"Ashiepattle"
"Many Pelts"
"The Goose Girl"
"The Frog King, or Iron Harry"