University of Waterloo, Department of English

Instructor: T. Paci
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Office: ML 254B
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Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 4:00 to 5:00 (or by appointment)

Course Description and Learning Objectives:
In this course, students will read and analyze several texts in the genre of children’s literature in the western tradition. First, we will discuss several folk and literary tales. We will then focus on texts from Europe, the United States, Canada and New Zealand written in the last century and a half. We will approach course 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 several subgenres of children’s literature appeal to and influence readers. Students should also have developed the skills to comment on specific texts effectively in course assignments. Finally, students should be able to apply the critical methods addressed in the course to works of children’s literature outside those studied in English 208C.

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
Lewis Carroll, Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland
Anne Frank, Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl (“The Definitive Edition,” edited by Otto Frank and Mirjam Pressler)
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 required texts 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% (*Feb 12*th)
Formal Essay, 4-6 pages, 45% (*due Mar 26*th)
Final In-class Test: 25% (*Apr 2*nd)

**Option #2:**
In-class Essay, 25% (*Feb 12*th)
Formal Essay, 3-4 pages, 35% (*due Mar 26*th)
Final In-class Test: 25% (*Apr 2*nd)
Collaborative Creative Assignment, 15% (*due Mar 26*th)

**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:
Jan 6, 8: Course introduction, “Goblin Market,” introduction to folk and fairy tales
Jan 13, 15: Folk and Fairy Tales
Jan 20, 22: Folk and Fairy Tales
Jan 27, 29: The Paper Bag Princess, Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland
Feb 3, 5: Peter Pan
Feb 10: The Man Whose Mother Was a Pirate, Anne of Green Gables
Feb 12: In-class essay
Feb 24: Anne of Green Gables
Feb 26, Mar 3: Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl
Mar 5: Charlotte’s Web
Mar 10, 12: Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry
Mar 17: no class because of Campus Day
Mar 19, 24: Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone
Mar 26: The Bad Beginning (essays and stories due)
Mar 31: TBA
Apr 2: Final in-class test

Please Note:

Course functioning will dictate scheduling to some degree. Please be prepared to accommodate some alterations in the schedule of readings.

Correspondence:

All e-mail should be sent directly to tppaci@watarts.uwaterloo.ca. I will check e-mail sent through UW-Ace only occasionally. Students using e-mail to contact me must include their first and last names, student number, and course in which they are enrolled in the email subject line.
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 after the last class 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.

UNIVERSITY’S NOTE ON AVOIDANCE OF ACADEMIC OFFENSES

All students registered in the courses of the Faculty of Arts 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). For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students are directed to consult the summary of Policy #71, which is supplied in the Undergraduate Calendar (section 1; on the Web at http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm). If you need clarification of aspects of the discipline policy, ask your TA or course instructor for guidance. Other resources regarding the discipline policy are your academic advisor and the Undergraduate Associate Dean. An especially useful resource is available on the Arts Faculty Web page: “Avoiding Academic Offences”, available at http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/arts/ugrad/academic_responsibility.html

Students who believe that they have been wrongfully or unjustly penalized have the right to grieve; refer to Policy #70, Student Grievance, available on the Web at:
http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy70.htm

NOTE 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.