

Preliminary Web Course Description

*Please note: This is a preliminary web course description only. The department reserves the right to change without notice any information in this description. The final, binding course outline will be distributed in the first class of the semester.

School of English and Theatre Studies

Course Code: ENGL*2740	Course Title: Children's Literature	Date of Offering: FALL 2017
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Course Instructor: J. Schacker	Course Format: lecture and discussion
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Brief Course Synopsis:

This reading-intensive course serves as an introduction to the critical study of literature for children.

The emphasis of ENGL*2740 this semester will be on 20th- and 21st-century texts, but we will begin the semester with a brief introduction to the history of children's literature -- and each of the course's 4 units of study will begin with study of textual traditions from centuries past. Together we will historicize, explore, and analyze fables and animal stories (unit 1), fairy tales and fantasy (unit 2), nonsense poetry and prose (unit 3), and picture books (unit 4), examining diverse representations of childhood and adulthood, gender and sexuality, race and class.

As we move our way through these varied texts, you will be introduced to many key ideas in contemporary literary studies, experimenting with analytical frameworks in discussions and in your own writing (essay exams and an optional essay).

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

Quizzes (best 5 of 6) **30%** **Midterm exams 2 @ 20% each**

Essay option: You will have the option to **rework, revise, expand, and polish** one of your essay answers from either of the two midterms **If you select this option, your grade on the optional essay will replace that of the original exam answer, and the exam grade will be adjusted accordingly.**

Final exam 30%

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)

{tentative list:}

L. Frank Baum, *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* (Dover facsimile edition)

Edith Nesbit, *The Story of the Treasure Seekers*

Iona Opie and Peter Opie, eds. *The Classic Fairy Tales*

Philippa Pearce, *Tom's Midnight Garden*

Jerry Pinkney, *The Lion and the Mouse*

Maurice Sendak, *Where the Wild Things Are*

Dr. Seuss, *The Cat in the Hat*

William Steig, *Abel's Island*

David Rudd, ed. *The Routledge Companion to Children's Literature*

+ occasional handouts

Other information that you wish share about the course (optional):

List the distribution requirements that this course fulfills:

This course fulfills 0.5 credits of 20th/21st-century literature for ENGL majors and minors.