

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 2019
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Course Instructor: J. Schacker	Course Format: lecture
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Brief Course Synopsis:

This reading-intensive course serves as an introduction to the critical study of literature for children. We will be historicizing, analyzing, and exploring a variety of texts -- including fairy tales and fantasy, nonsense poetry and prose, illustration and picture books, some contemporary reworkings of early forms of children's literature like didactic poetry and the "penny dreadful"-- and there will be a special focus on issues of power, authority, and representation. How have specific texts and artifacts constructed an idea of "the child" at whom they are targeted? Whose voices, stories, and perspectives are privileged in literature that is written by adults, for children? Which ones have been deemed "classic" or "canonical," and which ones have been marginalized? What is at stake?

As we move our way through assigned readings, you will be introduced to many key ideas in contemporary literary and cultural studies (by way of keywords for the study of children's literature). You will be experimenting with analytical frameworks in discussions and in your own writing. The overarching goal of this course is to provide you with tools and perspectives that can be applied to a wide range of cultural forms, beyond the reading list of this course and long after the semester's end.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

subject to modification based on the scheduling and size of the class in F19

Quizzes 30%

Midterm exams (2 @ 20% each) 40%

essay option: you will have the option to rework, revise, expand, and polish one of your essay answers from a midterm exam. Students who select this option will have the grade on the optional essay replace that of the original exam answer, with that exam's overall grade adjusted accordingly.

Final exam 30%

***quizzes are multiple choice; exams focus on essay questions/ close reading of texts**

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

Tentative list of Required Texts (will available at the Co-op and University bookstores; be sure to check updated list and to use editions ordered for the course)

L. Frank Baum (illustrations by W.W. Denslow), *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*
Julia Denos and E.B. Goodale, *Windows*
Neil Gaiman, *The Graveyard Book*
Mary Howitt and Tony DiTerlizzi, *The Spider and the Fly*
Iona Opie and Peter Opie, eds. *The Classic Fairy Tales*
Philip Pullman, *Spring-Heeled Jack*
David A. Roberston and Julie Flett, *When We Were Alone*
Maurice Sendak, *Where the Wild Things Are*
Philip Nel and Lissa Paul, eds., *Keywords for Children's Literature*
+ occasional handouts

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018:

fulfills the 20th/21st century requirement

Other information about the course (optional):

*Students who registered at the University of Guelph after Fall 2018 must fulfill the “new” major and minor requirements. Students who registered at the University of Guelph prior to Fall 2018 must fulfill the requirements of the Calendar in effect when they first enrolled unless they have filed a Schedule of Studies Change Request to change to the 2018-2019 calendar. For more information, please consult the major and minor checklists at <https://www.uoguelph.ca/arts/sets/undergraduate/english/current-student-information>.