

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*2130*01	Course Title: Seminar: Literature and Social Change:	Date of Offering: Fall 2019
------------------------------	---	--------------------------------

Course Instructor: J. Schacker	Course Format: seminar
--------------------------------	------------------------

Brief Course Synopsis: Animal Tales as Social Critique

ENGL*2130 explores the social and cultural work that literary texts perform, and in this iteration of the course we will be examining negotiations of narrative authority and social power (class, rank, and gender, in particular) in English-language **fables and animal tales**. While readers today often expect fables, fairy tales, and other narratives featuring animal characters to deliver "universal" morals and messages, we will start the course by examining specific versions and editions of fairy tales and fables to recapture their historical, political, and ideological specificity. We will discuss multiple versions of individual fables -- those adapted by William Caxton (1480s), Sir Roger L'Estrange (1690s), Rev. George Flyer Townsend (1860s); and Walter Crane and William Linton's *The Baby's Own Aesop* (1887) -- as well as fairy and folk tales translated into English in the 19th-century (some of which are still well known, while others have faded into obscurity). We will then turn to the "animal biographies" that were so important to the animal welfare movements of the late 19th century: *Black Beauty* (Anna Sewell, 1887) and *Beautiful Joe* (Margaret Marshall Saunders, 1894). Finally, we will look at Beatrix Potter's retreat from "goody goody books about nice people," her creepy picture book *The Tale of Mr. Tod* (1912) and her wartime *homage to Aesop*, *The Tale of Johnny Town-Mouse* (1918). These historical materials and the debates with which they engaged -- about power and its abuses, about the category of "animal," about human relations with each other and with the natural world -- resonate powerfully with contemporary concerns, as we can explore in discussion, research assignments, and writing assignments.

Methods of Evaluation and Weight:

seminar participation	10%
discussion-leading	15%
writing portfolio (6 assignments of approx. 350 words each)	30%
midterm exam (open book, in class)	20%
final essay (approx. 1500 words)	25%

Texts and/or Resources Required (e.g. Internet access, specific textbook title, lab kit, etc.)
tentative list of required texts -- please check with the campus bookstores for the final list of books ordered for the course:

Aesop's Fables, trans. Laura Gibbs (Oxford University Press)
Beautiful Joe, Margaret Marshall Saunders (Formac)

Black Beauty, Anna Sewell (Signet)
Feathers, Paws, Fins, and Claws: Fairy-Tale Beasts, edited by Jennifer Schacker and Christine Jones (Wayne State UP)
The Tale of Mr. Tod and *The Tale of Johnny Town-Mouse*, Beatrix Potter (Warne)
+ critical readings (on electronic reserve)

This course counts towards the following distribution requirement(s) for students who registered at the University prior to the Fall of 2018:
*this section of 2130 can satisfy 0.5 credits of the 18th/19th c. 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>.