

FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
COURSE OUTLINE

ENGLISH 396-01
COURSE TITLE: Children's Literature

Fall 2015
Tu/Th 3:30-4:45pm | ICT114

Instructor: Dr. Derritt Mason

Office: SS 1112

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Office hours: Thursdays 2-3, or by appointment

Course Description:

This class is a critical and historical study of children's literature from the eighteenth century to the present. A primary goal of this class is to consider the strangeness of children's literature: not only is it rare among genres for being named after the audience it aims to address, but children's literature is also unique in the way it generates so much anxiety among critics and readers with strong investments in how we define the genre and what, exactly, its texts should contain. Furthermore, children's literature fascinates in its inspiration of countless adaptations, retellings, and appropriations, many of which seem to challenge popular notions of childhood innocence and development. Through lectures, group discussions, in-class activities and an ePortfolio assignment, students will consider the terms through which critics have sought to define (or not define) children's literature, the expectations that surround the genre, and how children's literature and its adaptations may subvert and/or bolster these expectations. Students will depart the class having cultivated critical tools for approaching a range of children's literature texts, in addition to developing a heightened awareness of the fraught relationship between children's literature and its adult authors, critics and audiences. This class has no prerequisites, and is not open to students with credit in English 398.

Texts and Readings:

Selections from Isaac Watts, *Divine Songs for Children* (1715), Maria Edgeworth (1801) & assorted chapbooks (available online)

J.M. Barrie, *Peter Pan* (1911)

Martin Hallet and Barbara Karasek, eds. *Folk and Fairy Tales: Concise Edition* (4th Ed., 2008)

Into the Woods (Disney, 2014) – to be screened in-class

Ezra Jack Keats, *The Snowy Day* (1962)

Maurice Sendak, *Where the Wild Things Are* (1963)

Mariko Tamaki and Jillian Tamaki, *Skim* (2008)

J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* (1997)

Raziel Reid, *When Everything Feels Like the Movies* (2014)

Assorted fanfiction (available online)

Assignments and Evaluation:

ePortfolio (40%: 10% x 3 graded entries + 10% completion)

Throughout the term, you will use WordPress (or an appropriate online venue of your choosing) to create an ePortfolio that engages critically with our course texts and some of their adaptations. In this portfolio, you will log **five** entries according to instructions that will be distributed separately. Your first entry will be graded, followed by a censored/banned picture book entry (instructions forthcoming), followed by one randomly selected entry from the other three. A full 10% will be assigned to every student who finishes the term with a complete, five-entry portfolio. You are encouraged to make your portfolios public and share them with one another!

Participation and In-Class Assignments (20%)

Over the course of the term, the instructor will assign a minimum of **five** in-class activities that may include short oral presentations, reading quizzes, creative projects, and writing exercises, among others. These assignments will deepen your engagement with course material and encourage regular attendance and participation at lectures. Your highest **four** assignment scores will each contribute 5% towards your final grade; the lowest grade(s) will be dropped. There will be no advance warning about graded in-class activities and no opportunities for make-up assignments.

Mid-Term Test (10%)

Final Exam (30%)

The final exam will be registrar scheduled and open book. Exams will be held between December 11 and December 22, 2015. Students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period.

Assignment Policies:

- Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a third of a grade (an A- to B+) for each business day [not class day] that the assignment is overdue. No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor.
- Please make every effort to take assignments directly to the instructor. If it is not possible to do so, take your assignment to SS 1152 and put it in the dropbox. Your assignment will be date-stamped and placed in the instructor's mailbox. It is your responsibility to keep a copy of all assignments in case of loss by any cause. Assignments cannot be returned by staff in the Department office.
- In the case of a late assignment to be submitted electronically (i.e. a late portfolio entry), you are responsible for notifying the instructor by email as soon as the assignment has been uploaded. Otherwise, the assignment will be presumed incomplete.
- There will be no assignments given for extra credit in this course.
- Students must complete the ePortfolio and take the final exam in order to qualify for a passing grade in this course.

Grading System:

In this course, your ePortfolio entries and in-class assignments (exclusive of quizzes) will be marked on the University of Calgary's four-point Undergraduate Grading System, as described in the Calendar:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/f-2.html>

A+ / A (4.0); A- (3.7); B+ (3.3); B (3.0); B- (2.7); C+ (2.3); C (2.0); C- (1.7); D+ (1.3); D (1.0); F (0)

Exams and quizzes will receive a numerical grade, to be converted using the following scale:

90 + %	A+	4.0
85 – 89 %	A	4.0
80 – 84 %	A–	3.7
77 – 79 %	B+	3.3
74 – 76 %	B	3.0
70 – 73 %	B–	2.7
67 – 69 %	C+	2.3
64 – 66 %	C	2.0
60 – 63 %	C–	1.7
55 – 59 %	D+	1.3
50 – 54 %	D	1.0
0 – 49 %	F	0

Please note that, according to the University Calendar (F.1), instructors may use their discretion when rounding upwards or downwards when the average of term work and exams is between two letter grades.

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the 4-point system, the course instructor will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.

Classroom Policy on Electronic Devices, Email, and Internet Use:

This class relies on D2L and TopHat for the distribution of course materials and administration of in-class activities and quizzes. **To maximize your participation, please bring at least one internet-ready device (a mobile phone, tablet, or laptop) with you to class.** You are also welcome to use these devices for note taking during lectures. However, please be mindful to use all electronic devices appropriately: checking Facebook, sending messages, and other online activities unrelated to lectures and discussion distracts you and those around you. If you are not permitted to use electronic devices for a particular quiz, the instructor will inform you beforehand.

Students should check D2L and email regularly for updates, assignment instructions, and other course-related information.

Email is the best way to contact the instructor. Although I do my best to respond to emails promptly, please allow up to 48 hours for a response. I will not summarize class discussion or lectures through email—if you miss class, please gather any missing information from your fellow students. Email is not a substitute for attending class or office hours!

Note-Taking:

Lecture notes, slide presentations, and summaries of class discussion will not usually be distributed in this class and may not be made available to students who miss classes. Students are responsible for maintaining their own notes throughout the course, and are strongly encouraged to develop strategies during this course for effective note-taking, a skill that is invaluable for post-secondary studies in any discipline. (n.b. It is not useful to transcribe every word of a lecture—or, for that matter, to preserve it with a recording device: the best strategies include attentive listening, the brief noting of important terms and concepts during lecture or discussion, and a concise and articulate summary written at the end of class). In addition to keeping clear

and comprehensive notes, students are advised to keep up with course readings, to complete all assigned readings by the stipulated date, and to submit all work in a timely fashion, following all instructions for each assignment.

Plagiarism:

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events

<http://english.ucalgary.ca/scribe-and-muse-english-club>.

Our email address is smecuofc@gmail.com.

English Department Website:

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at <http://english.ucalgary.ca>. Please note that the course outlines posted on the English Department website constitute the official course outline for purposes of appeals. Students should verify any hard copies against this posted version. For courses which employ numerical grades, the official departmental percentage to letter grade conversion scale is also posted on the department website.

Writing support:

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:

<http://www.enough.utoronto.ca/computeruse/eetiquette.htm>

Library and Research Support:

Melanie Boyd, Librarian for English, offers research support to students, including strategies for finding articles, books, and other library materials. Contact: maboymd@ucalgary.ca

Find *The English Pages* research guide here: <http://libguides.ucalgary.ca/english>

Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:



Academic regulations and schedules:

Consult the Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

Grade appeals:

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

Deferral of term work and final examinations:

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>,

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

Student Accommodations:

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available

at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy_0.pdf.

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>;

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/>

“Safewalk” Program:

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Arts Students’ Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS102, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at

ascarts@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at

<http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Contact for Students Ombudsman's Office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):

"At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI) survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses (www.ucalgary.ca/usri). Your responses make a difference - please participate in USRI Surveys."

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

- (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
- (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University Calendar, (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>) "The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, ..., to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community". The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a "positive and productive learning and working environment." This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that "seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff". Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.