

FACULTY OF ARTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH  
COURSE OUTLINE

**ENGLISH 396-01**  
**COURSE TITLE: Literature for Young People**

**Winter 2018**  
**M/W 3:30-4:45pm | ST 135**

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**Instructor:** Dr. Derritt Mason

**Office:** SS 1112

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**E-mail:** [derritt.mason@ucalgary.ca](mailto:derritt.mason@ucalgary.ca)

**Office hours:** M. 2:00-3:00pm, or by appt.

**Teaching Assistant:** Joshua Whitehead

**Office:** SS 1031

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**Office hours:** W. 2:00-3:00pm, or by appt.

**Course Description:**

This class is a critical and historical study of children's and young adult literature. 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. 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 texts for young people, in addition to developing a heightened awareness of the fraught relationship between children's and young adult literature and its adult authors, critics and audiences. This class has no prerequisites, and is not open to students with credit in English 398.

**Primary Texts:**

J.M. Barrie, *Peter Pan* (1911) (recommended edition: Broadview Press, ed. Anne H. Alton, 2011)

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

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

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

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

Eden Robinson, *Son of a Trickster* (2017)

Vivek Shraya, *The Boy and the Bindi* (2016)

**\* Additional readings will be made available online and/or via D2L.**

## Assignments and Evaluation:

### **Term Project** (25%, graded by TA)

Select one of the following two options. For this assignment, you may work independently or in groups (max. 3 people). If you choose to work as a group, you accept that every group member will receive the same grade. Detailed instructions for this assignment will be distributed separately.

#### *Option 1: Course Design*

You will design an imaginary children's literature-related course based on the topic and audience of your choice (e.g. the history of young adult literature; Indigenous children's literature; LGBTQ children's literature; banned/censored picture books; fairy tale adaptations; children's literature for primary school teachers; children's literature for economics majors; etc...). This assignment will consist of three parts: a max. 750-word critical overview of your course and the themes and questions it will explore (including a major term assignment idea), an annotated bibliography that summarizes and explains the relevance of your selected texts, and your proposed reading schedule (based on a 13-week term). It is recommended that you meet with the course TA in advance to discuss your ideas.

#### *Option 2: Creative Project*

You will produce a creative term project using the medium of your choice—short film, picture book, graphic narrative, novel chapter, web-based video game, etc.—that critically engages with our course texts and themes (e.g. fairy tale retelling; *Peter Pan* adaptation; writing from historically marginalized perspectives for young people). Although the creative component can take any shape, you must also submit a max. 750-word critical overview that explains how our course readings and discussions have influenced your approach to and design of this project. If you select this option, it is strongly recommended that you meet with the course TA in advance to discuss your ideas.

### **In-Class Assignments** (15%)

Over the course of the term, the instructor will assign a minimum of **four** in-class activities that may include short oral presentations, reading quizzes administered via TopHat, 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 **three** 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.

### **Participation Cards** (10%, graded by instructor & TA)

On **five** occasions throughout the term (see reading schedule for deadlines), you will submit a 3x5" index card (no paper cut-outs or substitutes permitted!) to the instructor. These cards are an opportunity to share your critical thoughts related to course material and/or things you read/saw/heard that made you think about our class. You should not simply raise a question, but rather draw connections between thoughts/texts and/or engage critically with your own reactions to course materials. **You must submit these cards in-person, in class** (i.e. you cannot have someone submit the card on your behalf). Each card will receive a grade out of 2 and count for 2% toward your final mark. **No exceptions will be permitted**; if your card isn't submitted on-time in-class, you won't receive the grade!

### **Mid-Term Test** (15%)

### **Final Exam** (35%)

The final exam will be registrar scheduled. Exams will be held between April 16-26, 2018. 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 3% for each day that the assignment is overdue. No assignments will be accepted one week past the assignment deadline without the prior consent of the instructor. Participation cards will not be accepted beyond their original due date. Otherwise, extensions are only granted under exceptional circumstances.
- There will be no assignments given for extra credit.
- Students must complete the term project and final exam in order to qualify for a passing grade in this course.

### Grading System:

In this course, assignments 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 and TA. Although we do our best to respond to emails promptly, please allow up to 48 hours for a response. **We 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** be distributed in this class, nor will they 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-5.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](mailto: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>

### **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: [maboyn@ucalgary.ca](mailto:maboyn@ucalgary.ca).

Find The English Pages research guide here:

[https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject\\_id=52619](https://library.ucalgary.ca/sb.php?subject_id=52619)

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:**

**ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.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](mailto: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](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto: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](http://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.