

**English 396 - Children's Literature**

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office: SS 1125  
office hours: T/TH10-11  
or by appointment!

Although the literary achievements of adult novels are often subject to debate, Victorian to modern children's texts are almost universally praised for their imaginative qualities and thematic depth, as well as their ability to go beyond the mundane appearances and experiences, and yet, paradoxically, to illuminate those experiences with an intensity matched by no other form. This course will focus on heroes and heroines, "boy" books and "girl" books, and the ways in which their journeys, fantastic or otherwise, develop themes of personal identity or subjectivity, spiritual enlightenment and social values. We will also include a critical consideration and study of the historical background to the current conception of children's literature.



**Required Texts**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Barrie, J.                               | <i>Peter Pan</i>                                |
| Carroll, L.                              | <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i>         |
| Fielding, S.                             | <i>The Governess</i>                            |
| Gaiman, N.                               | <i>Coraline</i> .                               |
| Hallet, Martin and Barbara Karasek, eds. | <i>Folk and Fairy Tales: Concise Edition</i> .  |
| LeGuin, U.                               | <i>Wizard of Earthsea</i> .                     |
| Rowling, J. K.                           | <i>Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone</i> |
| Tolkien, J. R. R.                        | <i>The Hobbit</i>                               |

Note: All assignments for this class are expected to be in the format found in the *MLA Handbook* (7<sup>th</sup> edition). Any assignments not conforming to this format will be penalized accordingly.

**On Conversation and Courtesy**

Please consider email as a last resort; in the last few years, I have found that students rely on email to raise questions much more suitable to class discussions or office hour conversations. You must remember: if you have a question, it is highly likely that your class colleagues might want to ask it or discuss it too. I would prefer computers not be used in the classroom to eliminate any distractions from our discussions and to avoid discomfort for other colleagues.

It is my hope that this will be a rewarding experience for all learners in the room – including myself! Please treat your colleagues with respect and courtesy; in return, we will all be able to enjoy an engaging and lively exploration of the material.

## Grading

The final mark will not be merely a mathematical computation of your various marks; rather, it will be a comprehensive grade which considers not only your assignments, but also your understanding of the literature studied in class throughout the year, and your progression through the course which includes in-class participation as well as your dedication to the course; accordingly, I expect all students to be fully prepared and participate in all aspects of the course. Readings are to be completed by the date of discussion.

Your assignments will be given a letter grade; those letter grades reflect the University of Calgary four-point GPA scale found in the calendar. The scale we will use is as follows:

A+	90-100%	Outstanding	4.00
A	85-89%	Excellent	4.00
A-	80-84%		3.70
B+	77-79%	Very Good	3.30
B	74-76%	Good	3.00
B-	70-73%		2.70
C+	67-69%		2.30
C	64-66%	Satisfactory	2.00
C-	60-63%		1.70
D+	55-59%		1.30
D	50-54%	Minimal Pass	1.00
F	0-49%	Fail	0

I am always available to talk to students who are encountering difficulties either with the content or requirements of any of my courses – a short dialogue between the student and myself rarely fails to resolve such obstacles. My door is *always* open.

Having said that, to avoid any appearance of favouritism or confusion, there will be *no extensions* given on *any* assignments in this class. Failure to hand in an essay to me, personally – not my mailbox, not under my door, not via email, and not to the department office -- within the first fifteen minutes of the appropriate class will result in a grade of F/zero. The only exceptions that will be made is in the case of documented illness. Any assignments handed in to the secretary, to my mailbox, via email or under my door, without attending class will also result in a grade of F/zero. Essays cannot be handed in via email. All assignments must be completed in order to pass this course. 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. Please carefully review the comments given on each essay and/or assignment before coming to chat so we can have a fruitful discussion with suggestions for improvement. Students are also invited to review the regulations in the calendar regarding attendance, plagiarism and academic appeals. 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 for 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>."

### Course Requirements

The course will be based on both discussion and lecture; students are responsible for having the required reading completed before the appropriate class so that they may actively participate throughout the course. To that end, students cannot "participate" if they are absent from class. I pay careful attention to the level of dedication students show to the required reading and the course requirements. Remember: you are here because you chose to be here—let's not waste each other's time with shoddy work. Believe it or not, I *can* spot an essay written in haste, and a student who is not prepared for class. Plan your time wisely for this course as there will be a fair amount of required reading.

Two Short Essays	
2 x 8 pages (at 40 % each)	80%
Film Analysis	10%
Attendance & Participation	10%

NOTE: There will be no final exam in this course!

### Cancellation of Class

Barring emergencies, I will always be here early for class; that said, in the event I am not present within the first fifteen minutes of the class period, you may leave.

### 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/content/scribe-and-muse-reading-and-writing-club>  
Our email address is [smrwc@ucalgary.ca](mailto:smrwc@ucalgary.ca).

### 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>.

**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>

**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>

**Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:**

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/it/help/articles/email/etiquette>

**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>.

**Academic accommodation:**

It is a student's responsibility to request academic accommodation. If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation and if you have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre, please contact their office at 220-8237. Your academic accommodation letters should be provided to your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the commencement of this course. Students who have not registered with the Disability Resource Centre are not eligible for formal academic accommodation.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/drc/>

**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 Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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>

## 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.

## English 396: Children's Literature

### *Tentative Reading Schedule*

Please note that this schedule may be revised according to the dynamics and time constraints of the class!

#### January

- 8 Introduction  
 10 **What is Children's Literature?**  
 15 **Beginnings: Oral Tales and Literary Tales**  
 17-22 Little Red Riding Hood  
 24-29 La Belle et la Bête or Sleeping Beauty?  
 31 **Who is a Hero/ine?**

#### February

- 5-7 **Beginnings: Realism**  
*The Governess* by Sarah Fielding  
 12-14 **Victorian Beginnings: The Rise of Fantasy**  
*Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll  
 14 **FIRST ESSAY DUE!**  
 17-24 READING BREAK!  
 26-28 *Alice* cont'd

#### March

- 5-14 **Early Twentieth-Century Developments:** *Peter Pan* by J. M. Barrie  
 19-26 **The Master:** "On Fairy Stories" and *The Hobbit* by J. R. R. Tolkien  
 28 **Twenty/First Century Fantastic:** *Wizard of Earthsea* by Ursula K. LeGuin

#### April

- 2 *Earthsea* cont'd  
 4-9 **Darkness and Horror:** *Coraline* by Neil Gaiman  
 11-16 **Consider the Phenomenon:** *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* by J. K. Rowling  
 16 **SECOND ESSAY DUE and, sadly, our last day!**