

Course Title: ENGE2360 Children's Literature

Description:

This course provides a framework for understanding the themes and motifs of children's literature. It also looks at representations of children in literature. We will analyse some essential, central texts as well as contemporary popular books for children. The uses of fantasy and the educational aspects of books for children will be discussed, along with notions of childhood and adulthood. Through close reading of set texts, students will be able to engage in critical techniques applicable to most literature. This is because the best texts for children satisfy sensitive adult readers too.

Learning outcomes:

1. To understand the pedagogical and cultural values of children's literature.
2. To detect the techniques employed in writing children's literature and in representations of children.
3. To explore the social, historical and political background of the themes and motifs in children's literature.
4. To critically evaluate the ideas and values embedded in children's literature.

Task nature	Description	Weight
Class Participation	Discussion in tutorials.	5%
Class Presentation + Handout	Oral presentation followed by <u>facilitating</u> of class discussions. (incl. 2-4pg handout)	15%
Term Paper	6-8 pages, font size 12, double-spaced essay.	30%
Final Exam (Open Book)	2-hr Examination. Choose 2 essay questions out of several. You must answer each question with reference to at least 2 texts. You are allowed to bring: (i) lecture and tutorial handouts; (ii) required texts; and (iii) your own hand-written notes into the examination hall.	50%

Required Texts:

- 1) Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm. *Grimms' Fairy Tales*. (see #1)
[<http://www.surlalunefairytales.com/authors/grimms.html#CONTENTS>]
- 2) Hans Christian Andersen. *Andersen's Fairy Tales*. (see #2)
[<http://www.gutenberg.org/etext/1597>]
- 3) William Blake. *Songs of Innocence and Experience*. (see #3)
[<http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1934>]
- 4) Lewis Carroll. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.
- 5) J. M. Barrie. *Peter Pan*.
- 6) J.K. Rowling. *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*.
- 7) Mark Haddon. *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*.

#1 *Grimms' Fairy Tales*. The course will focus on the following: "Rapunzel", "Hansel and Grethel", "Little Red-Cap" (a.k.a "Little Red Riding Hood"), and "Iron John".

#2 *Andersen's Fairy Tales*. The course will focus on the following: "The Emperor's New Clothes", "The Real Princess", and "The Snow Queen".

#3 SONGS OF INNOCENCE: "The Lamb", "The Little Black Boy", "The Chimney-Sweeper"
SONGS OF EXPERIENCE: "The Little Girl Lost", "The Little Girl Found", "The Little Vagabond", "A Little Girl Lost", "The Schoolboy"

References:

Bruno Bettelheim. *The Uses of Enchantment*.

Peter Hunt. *Children's Literature*.

Karín Lesnik-Oberstein, ed. *Children's Literature: New Approaches*.

Murray Knowles and Kirsten Malmkjær. *Language and Control in Children's Literature*.

John Rowe Townsend. *Written for Children: An Outline of English-language Children's Literature*.

Lectures	Order of Texts/Topics
1)	Introduction: "Childhood is the Kingdom where Nobody Dies"
2)	Approaches to Reading Fairy Tales
3)	Approaches to Reading Fairy Tales / Blake's <i>Songs of Innocence and Experience</i>
4)	Romantic Notions of Childhood: <i>Songs of Innocence and Experience</i>
5)	Representations of Childhood in Victorian Literature: [Extracts provided]
6)	A Child's Journey: <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i>
7)	A Child's Journey: <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland / Peter Pan</i>
8)	A Child's Journey: <i>Peter Pan</i>
9)	Children as Heroic Figures: <i>Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone</i>
10)	Illusion vs Reality: <i>Harry Potter and the Curious Incident</i>
11)	Narrating the Real World: <i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time</i>
12)	Conclusion

Unless there are matters to be addressed directly to the course instructor, your tutor should be your first port of call. If you have questions or if you wish to set up individual/group consultations, we prefer to be first contacted by e-mail. Please provide your full name and tutorial group in your e-mail.

Professor/Lecturer/Instructor:	
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Teaching Assistant/Tutor:	

Please read carefully the information regarding academic honesty on the following website:
<http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/>.