

Effective Semester: Fall 2024

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Title Children's Literature

Course Number: ENGL 208

Credits: 3

Total Weeks: 14 (Fall, Spring)
12 (Summer)

Total Hours: 39

Course Level: ☐ First Year ☒ Second Year
☐ New ☐ Revised Course
☐ Replacement Course

Department: English

Department Head: B. Lord

Former Course Code(s) and Number(s) (if applicable): N/A

Pre-requisites (If there are no prerequisites, type NONE): ENGL 101 and successful completion of ENGL 103, ENGL 111, or ENGL 121 or equivalent

Co-requisite Statement (List if applicable or type NONE): None

Precluded Courses: None

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Sleeping spells and talking animals, not to mention the morally clear universe that often defies natural laws, are among the tropes of children's literature that provide us with our earliest images of human adventure. As readers of this genre, even as adult readers, we seek to share in the characters' enchantment and peril. This course will not only examine the archetypes of the deserving hero, the distressed damsel, and the conniving antagonist ("wicked stepmothers" as well as indisposed beasts), but will also consider the variations of narrative logic across different cultures and times. Reading both traditional and contemporary tales, poems and short stories of children's literature, we will explore how this genre depicts children and adults within its narrative space, as well as what the genre reveals about its readers, such as our conception of the "adult" and the "child" and their capacity for self-awareness, discovery and transformation.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the course, students will be able to:

- Participate in the critical analysis of children's literature based on how this genre functions as a site of both ideological and cultural expression, and literary and narrative invention.
- Explain how a given culture's ideals of children and childhood are (or are not) reflected in various course texts.
- Provide evidence to support your conclusions.
- Identify different figures of speech, tropes and rhetorical devices that we encounter in course texts.
- Explain how these devices affect or contribute to the text's content.
- Articulate the social, political, and cultural contexts that inform course texts through written and verbal responses.
- Create a clear, thoughtful, and complex MLA-style research project based on one (or more) of the course texts that demonstrates critical close reading of both text and, where applicable, image.

INSTRUCTION AND GRADING

Instructional (Contact) Hours:

Type	Duration
Lecture	39
Seminars/Tutorials	
Laboratory	
Field Experience	
Other (<i>specify</i>):	
Total	39

Grading System: Letter Grades ☒ Percentage ☒ Pass/Fail ☐ Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory ☐ Other ☐

Specify passing grade: 50%

Evaluation Activities and Weighting (total must equal 100%)

Assignments: 30% <i>Specify number of, variety, and nature of assignments:</i> Reading Responses (20%) Presentation (10%)	Lab Work: %	Participation: 15% <i>Specify nature of participation:</i> Attendance/Participation	Project: 10% <i>Specify nature of project:</i> Term Paper
Quizzes/Test: %	Midterm Exam: 20%	Final Exam: 25%	Other: %

TEXT(S) AND RESOURCE MATERIALS

Provide a full reference for each text and/or resource material and include whether required/not required.

The Witches (Roald Dahl)

Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (JK Rowling)

The Classic Fairy Tales (Ed. Maria Tatar)

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and *Through The Looking Glass* (Lewis Carroll)

Unnatural Creatures: Stories Selected by Neil Gaiman (Neil Gaiman)

COURSE TOPICS

List topics and sequence covered.

Week	Topic	Reading
Week 1	Introduction to Children's Literature	The Emperor's Clothes & All Summer in a Day The Accessible Moral Vs. Subtle Illumination
Week 2	Narrative Thrill	<i>The Witches / Short Stories</i> (Roald Dahl)
Week 3	Narrative Thrill:	<i>The Witches / Short Stories</i> (Roald Dahl) Reading Response 1
Week 4	Fairy Tales	<i>The Classic Fairy Tales</i> (Ed. Maria Tatar)
Week 5	Fairy Tales:	<i>The Classic Fairy Tales</i> (Ed. Maria Tatar)
Week 6	Fairy Tales:	<i>The Classics Fairy Tales</i> (Ed. Maria Tatar)
Week 7	Modern Fantasy	Midterm Exam
Week 8	Modern Fantasy	<i>Harry Potter</i> (JK Rowling)
Week 9	Under the Aegis of Sense: The role of language games in children's literature	<i>Alice in Wonderland</i> (Lewis Carroll)
Week 10	Under the Aegis of Sense: The role of language games in children's literature	<i>Alice in Wonderland</i> (Lewis Carroll)

Week 11	The New Dreamscape: contemporary children's literature	Selected readings from <i>Unnatural Creatures</i> (Neil Gaiman)
Week 12	The New Dreamscape: contemporary children's literature	Selected readings from <i>Unnatural Creatures</i> (Neil Gaiman)
Week 13	The New Dreamscape: contemporary children's literature	Selected readings from <i>Unnatural Creatures</i> (Neil Gaiman)
Week 14	Final Exam Week	<i>Final Exam</i>

NOTES

1. Students are required to follow all College policies. Policies are available on the website at: [Coquitlam College Policies](#)
2. To find out how this course transfers, visit the BC Transfer Guide at: [bctransferguide.ca](#)

Last Reviewed: September 2024

Last Revised: September 2024