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ENG 3405-003

John Kilgore
Eastern Illinois University

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SYLLABUS

INSTRUCTOR: John Kilgore. Office: 314K Coleman Hall. Hours: MWF 12-2, T 11-3. Phone: (217) 581-6313 (office); (217) 345-7395 (home). Please feel very free to call my home at reasonable hours. When leaving voice mail at the office, include date and time of call, and do not trust voice mail for urgent messages—try me at home instead.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Two papers of about 1,000-1,250 words each (40%); oral report on work of your choice (ungraded); two hour exams (10% & 15%); final exam (25%); attendance and participation (10%). I reserve the right to depart from these percentages somewhat.

PAPERS. Will come due on 2/19 and 3/26; see schedule below. These are to be analytical discussions of about 1,000-1,250 words each, thoughtfully posed, rigorously developed and defended, written with great care. Detailed writing guidelines and suggested topics will be forthcoming. You are welcome to develop your own topics rather than writing on the suggested ones, but be SURE to check with me first. If you're having trouble getting your paper started or written, I welcome conferences in advance of the due date.

All papers should be typewritten (or computer printed), double-spaced, and generally legible. Check the Writing Guidelines handout for other relevant information.

EXAMS. Are meant to ensure that you have done ALL readings carefully and have a good grasp of issues and concepts covered in class discussion. Essay portions will ask you to analyze concepts, interpret passages, and demonstrate basic familiarity with works on the syllabus. The best preparation will be to think hard about reading questions I will handing out from time to time. Objective portions will test knowledge of the reading in detail, requiring you to identify authors, works, characters, and quotations. These portions will be open-book, open-note.

ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION. Will count approximately 10% of your grade in the course. From the second meeting on, I will be passing around an attendance sheet which you must sign. At the end of the term, I will assign a participation grade according to the following scale: 1-3 absences--A; 4 absences--B; 5 absences--C; 6 absences--D; 7 absences--F. I will raise this grade a bit if I think your contributions to class discussion have been especially good. Absences beyond the maximum of 6 will result in a further, proportional lowering of the course grade.

Note that you have three "free" absences. Use these as insurance against illness and other unavoidable circumstances that may keep you from attending. I will listen sympathetically to excuses, but I will not normally award attendance credit for any session which you have missed. In the case of truly unavoidable absences, however, I MAY be willing to assign onerous, challenging make-up work for attendance credit. See me if you prefer this to taking the absence. (Hint: It's easier just to be here. Honest.) Note: it is your responsibility to find and sign the attendance sheet at each session.

There will be a few classroom exercises in which volunteers can earn extra credit points, to be added to the exam grades. See me if you think you might like to participate.
REQUIRED TEXTS:
Saltman, et al, eds., The Riverside Anthology of Children's Literature (A)
Griffith and Frey, eds., Classics of Children's literature (C)
Egoff, et al, eds., Only Connect (E)
Bruno Bettelheim, The Uses of Enchantment (B)
Scott O’Dell, Island of the Blue Dolphins

KEYS TO SUCCESS IN THIS CLASS:
#1: Do ALL the reading, do it carefully, and do it EARLY. Writing assignments and exams come thick and fast at the end of the term, and you need to make time now. Not all of the reading will be covered in class, but all or nearly all will be tested on exams.

#2: Attend faithfully.

#3: Start your papers early and work hard on them, writing multiple drafts.

SCHEDULE
Note: Please complete the readings for each session before the class meets. As the course gets underway, try hard to READ AHEAD of the schedule. You will have a hard time keeping up at the end of the term if you do not make a head start on the longer readings.

Please make a habit of bringing this syllabus to class with you, as we will need to adjust the schedule from time to time.

Works in boldface will be emphasized.

1) January 13-17 COURSE INTRODUCTION
Read pp. 1-9 and 15-20 in A.
Hoban, "How Tom Beat Captain Najork and His Hired Sportsmen," A198.

2) *January 21-24 Nursery rhymes: read through pp. 15-63 in A, paying special attention to the following (by number in text): 8, 12, 13, 14, 18, 19, 22, 26, 32-36, 43, 45, 49, 66, 74, 76, 95, 105, 107, 110, 117, 123, 127, 162, 163.
Handout: Meter and Prosody.

3) January 27-31
Lewis Carroll, Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, C425. [Read whole book, not just short excerpt in A!]

4) February 3-7
version (handout).
Bettelheim, *The Uses of Enchantment*, the following selections: 3-19, 166-183. Optional, recommended: 41-73, 111-122, 159-166.

5) *February 10-13*

**FIRST EXAM ON WEDNESDAY**

6) February 17-21
Marcia Lieberman, "Some Day My Prince Will Come" (handout).
Review and catch-up.

***FIRST PAPER DUE ON WEDNESDAY***

7) Feb. 24-28

8) Mar. 3-7
Supplementary poetry handout.

9) Mar. 10-14
Poetry, continued.

***SPRING BREAK***

10) Mar. 24-28
Twain, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer,* C389.

***SECOND PAPER DUE ON WEDNESDAY***

11) Mar. 31-Apr. 4

12) April 7-11.
Review.

***SECOND EXAM ON WEDNESDAY OR FRIDAY***

13) April 14-18.
Kipling, *The Jungle Books,* C1045. [Read all.]

14) April 21-25
O'Dell, *Island of the Blue Dolphins.*
LATE WORK POLICY: I am willing to be somewhat flexible providing you have been in touch with me BEFORE the missed deadline. Otherwise late papers will be penalized one third grade (e.g., from "A" to "A-" or from "A-" to "B+") for each calendar day of lateness, weekends and holidays included; and they will receive no written commentary, but a letter grade only. Pick up the phone, dial my number, and save yourself from this demoralizing fate.

Please be aware that the penalty for plagiarism or cheating, which I trust I will not have to impose, is automatic failure of the course. See me if you have any questions about this policy.