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ENG 4905-001: Classics of Children's Lit into Popular Film

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English 4905 Section 001
Classics of Children's Lit into Popular Film
Fall 2003

Dr. Carol Stevens
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Office Hours: 11-12 and 1-2 Tuesday and Thursday, Wednesday 2-3, and by appointment
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Class meets Tuesday and Thursday from 5:00 to 6:15 p.m. in Room 3160 CH.

Texts:
Collodi, Pinocchio: The Story of a Puppet, tr. Perr (We'll discuss this at the first class)
Griffiths and Frey, Classics of Children's Literature, 4th edition
Tolkien, The Fellowship of the Ring, The Two Towers, The Return of the King (or, collectively, The Lord of the Rings)

Course description and objectives: This course considers what happens to traditional children's literature when it is adapted from written word into another medium, and what happens to our culture when pervaded by the images that medium presents. We will read fairy tales, picture books, and novels, viewing their movie or TV counterparts, some obvious, some not so obvious, as well. Our objectives, working in the context of children's literature, include:
1) understanding the stresses that adaptation to a different medium places on any work of art
2) interpreting the role of film as a transmitter and shaper of culture
3) understanding film and literature as a culture's responses to their times, and
4) sharpening our critical/analytical skills by placing what we learn into some context or theoretical framework.

Viewing all of the films during the semester and before they are discussed is a course requirement. I will schedule a lab session to accommodate as many students as possible. If it is not possible to see the films during lab, please try to see them with others among your classmates who also cannot be at a lab. Films will be on reserve at the library AFTER they have been viewed in lab. You will need to have seen them by discussion dates.

Grading: Unless we change this in class, your grade will be based upon:
A weekly 2-page typed response journal entry - 35 points
A mid-term exam - 10 points
A final exam - 15 points
An individual paper or project - 15 points
A group film/book presentation project - 15 points
Other, including but not limited to, participation and involvement - 10 points
Other policies:

- Since the course will be conducted as a seminar (i.e. the students bear a greater share of the responsibility for the teaching/learning experience) everyone is required to be at every meeting. Absences will be excused only for serious reasons as defined by the catalog. For unexcused absences, there will be a 1 point deduction the first time, two the second, etc. Since tardiness also distracts, there will be a one-point penalty each time it occurs. All assignments are due on the dates specified. Only work turned in on time is eligible for full points.

- All major assignments (readings, mid-term, final, journal, paper, group project) MUST be completed. If changes occur, as sometimes happens, in the major assignments, point totals will be redistributed as necessary. Such redistribution will be announced in class and will apply to all members of the class.

- Quizzes and discussion-prep writing, if assigned, are classwork or exploratory writing meant to prepare for discussion. Doing them afterward is pointless.

- On plagiarism: using the thoughts or words of another without giving proper credit is a serious offense. Any plagiarism or other academic dishonesty will result in an in the course and will be reported to Judicial Board. If you have not, at this stage in your academic career, learned what plagiarism and academic dishonesty are, learn at once—BEFORE the first written work is due.

- Assignments: You will receive your first assignments verbally at the first class meeting, and will subsequently receive a schedule of assignments. Please keep up with it unless you are given specific instructions to alter it.

- Students with disabilities: If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodation, please contact the coordinator of disability services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

Please note: Every effort has been made to spell out policies and expectations clearly. If you don't understand something, please ask. Any syllabus or policy statement is a tentative document. Announcements in class will be considered sufficient notice of changes. Any additional handouts you receive should be considered part of this policy statement or the course material.