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ENG 3405-003: Children's Literature

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Children's Literature

Anthologies:  Classics of Children's Literature, eds. Griffith & Frey (CCL)
The Riverside Anthology of Children's Literature, ed. Saltman (RIV)

Chapter Books/Novels:
Frog and Toad Together, Lobel
Little House on the Prairie, Wilder
The Secret of the Old Clock, Keene
Fair Game, Tamar

Picture Books:
The Legend of Old Befana, DePaola
Arrow to the Sun, McDermott
The True Story of the Three Little Pigs, Scieszka
Where the Wild Things Are, Sendak

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

1/11 Introductions & In-Class Writing
1/13 Personal Reading History Due
1/15 Read "Trade and Plum-Cake Forever" in The Riverside Anthology of Children's Literature (hereafter RIV) + "Defining Children's Literature" (handout)

1/18 Martin Luther King, Jr Birthday: No Class Meeting
1/20 Read "Voices of the Nursery, Voices of the Playground" in RIV 15-20 and then read 20 or more rhymes from "Mother Goose and Other Nursery Rhymes" 21-42 and "Street and Game Lore" 42-49

1/29 Read Intro. to Perrault CCL 3-4 + "The Sleeping Beauty in the Woods," "Little Red Riding Hood," "Blue Beard," "The Master Cat, or Puss in Boots" CCL 5-17

2/1 Read Introduction to Andersen CCL 91 + selected tales: especially "The Little Mermaid" 114, but also "The Princess and the Pea" 127, "The Little Match Girl" 132, "The Emperor's New Clothes" 137, and "The Ugly Duckling" 143
2/3 Read and Compare "Cinderella" CCL 17-21 (Perrault) & "Aschenputtel" 60-65 (Grimm), also "Little Red Riding Hood" 10 (Perrault) + other versions (handout)
2/5 Read from U.S. folktales "Old Fire Dragaman," "Paul Bunyan," and "Pecos Bill Becomes a Coyote" RIV 447-455

2/10     Mid-term Exam
2/12     Lincoln's Birthday, No Class Meeting

2/15     Read Frog and Toad Together (chapter book)
2/17     Read "Thresholds & Frontiers: Fantasy & Sci Fi" RIV 807-813 + excerpt from A Wizard of Earthsea 900-908
2/19     Begin Peter Pan (in CCL)

2/22     Peter Pan
2/24     finish Peter Pan
2/26     Read "Encounters and Adventures: Realistic and Historical Fiction" RIV 667-674

3/1      Begin Little House on the Prairie
3/3      Little House on the Prairie
3/5      Finish Little House on the Prairie + Topics for Classics Papers DUE

3/8      Begin the "classic" novel you selected (and I approved)
          Write a 2 page response to the first half of this work
3/10     Write a 2 page response to research on this author/work
          Turn in your xeroxed sources along with your response
3/12     Write a 2 page response to the second half of this work

3/15 – 3/19      SPRING BREAK

3/22     Draft of Paper DUE
3/24     Paper DUE
3/26     Begin The Secret of the Old Clock (Nancy Drew)

3/29     Finish The Secret of the Old Clock
3/31     Begin Fair Game
4/2      Finish Fair Game

4/5      Write a 2 page response to half of the "popular" fiction you selected (and I approved) for use in the group presentation
4/7      Write a 2 page response to research on work, author or genre
          Turn in xeroxed source material with your response
4/9      Write a 2 page response to the second half of your book

4/12-16 Group Presentations

4/19     Read Introduction to "Picture Books" RIV 125-188; Also read Where the Wild Things Are
4/21     Read Arrow to the Sun, The Legend of Old Befana and The True Story of the Three Little Pigs
4/23     Topic Proposals DUE Bring the book you plan to write about to class

4/26     Worksheet DUE
4/28     Draft DUE
4/30     Paper DUE
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BOOKS

Anthologies: Classics of Children's Literature, eds. Griffith & Frey (CCL)
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The Secret of the Old Clock, Keene
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Where the Wild Things Are, Sendak

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND OBJECTIVES

The reading assignments will expose you to classic and popular children's literature of various types, including nursery rhyme, fairy tale, picture book, chapter book, fantasy novel and realistic novel. As a class, we will read examples of each type of literature and discuss their generic characteristics as well as their individual themes and purposes.

The writing assignments consist of a number of short, informal writing assignments, as well as a mid-term (on nursery rhymes and fairy tales), two papers (one on a classic novel and one on a picture book), a group project (on popular novels) and an essay final.

The mid-term exam will ask for both factual and interpretive information about the works that we have read up to that point. The final exam will consist of one in-class essay in which you explore one of the larger issues in children's literature by analyzing at least three of the works we have read over the course of the semester.

The papers provide an opportunity for you to analyze a text that you have chosen using the terms and concepts introduced in class. You will choose a work that is not on our syllabus, but is the same type (or genre) as the works on the syllabus that we just read. For example, at the end of the unit on picture books, you will write a paper on a picture book of your choice. (Note: These choices must have my approval.)

For the group project you will write a series of responses to a popular novel you chose to read and research. You will pool your information and observations with those of your classmates who read similar works. As a group, you will organize this material into a 15 minute class presentation. You will receive an individual grade on the written responses to your book which will be added to your group grade for the presentation.
COURSE RESPONSIBILITIES AND POLICIES

1.) You must turn in all assigned writing to pass this course.

2.) Your written work needs to be available in class when it is due. Late work will be penalized unless we have come to an understanding before the due date. Most in-class group work cannot be made up.

3.) Attendance counts. Participation too. If you have more than six (6) unexcused absences over the semester, your grade will drop a full letter grade because you will lose 100 of the 200 points available for participation.

4.) The English Department defines plagiarism as taking someone else’s words or ideas and using them in your own writing without giving written credit to their author. This is a serious academic offense and may result in a failing grade for the paper or the course and may also incur other university penalties. If your paper has less serious problems with documentation/citation, you will still have to revise it before it can receive a grade. The tutors in the Writing Center (CH 301) can answer your questions about documentation for the papers you write in this class or any others. Drop by or call (5929) to make an appointment.

5.) Formal writing assignments should be double-spaced and typed/printed. I highly recommend that you use a word-processor so you can revise easily. All writing for this class will require that you use MLA style for documentation and form. Handbooks and other materials are available in the Writing Center free of charge.

6.) Students with documented disabilities: If you wish to receive appropriate academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

GRADES*

Class grades will be based on the percentage you earn of the 1000 points possible.

Mid-term = 150 points
Papers = 400 points each (200 each)
Presentation = 150 points
Final Exam = 100 points
Participation = 200 points

* it may be necessary to adjust some point values mid-semester if we add, cancel or revise any assignments

The bottom line . . .

Grades are not curved: 91% (910 points) and above = A
81 - 90% (810 - 909 points) = B
71 - 80% (710 - 809 points) = C
61 - 70% (610 - 700 points) = D
60% (609 points) and below = F