ENG 3405-001-003: Children's Literature

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English 3405: Children's Literature

Text: Essentials of Children's Literature, Lynch-Brown & Tomlinson (ECL)
Anthology: Classics of Children's Literature, Eds. Griffith & Frey (CCL)
Picture Books: Amazing Grace, Hoffman
The True Story of the Three Little Pigs, Scieszka
Where the Wild Things Are, Sendak
Tuesday, Wiesner
Chapter Books + Novels: The Secret of the Old Clock, Keene
Ella Enchanted, Levine
Frog and Toad Together, Lobel (“chapter book”)
Little House on the Prairie, Wilder
From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun, Woodson

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS AND OBJECTIVES

The reading assignments will expose you to traditional and contemporary, classic and popular literature for children, including nursery rhymes, fairy tales, picture books, poetry, chapter books, fantasies, and realistic novels. We will read examples of each type of children's literature and discuss their generic characteristics as well as the themes and purposes of these specific works.

The writing assignments will include written responses to the readings and critical reviews of a picture book, a novel, and a poem, in addition to a final exam. Each of your reviews will evaluate a work of children's literature using terms and concepts introduced in class and in our text. You will evaluate a work that is not on our syllabus, but is the same type (or genre) as the works that we have discussed. For example, at the end of the unit on picture books, you will review a picture book of your choice. (Note: your choices must have my approval.) As part of this assignment, you will also write responses to the book while you are reading it and do some background research. During the final exam period you will compose an essay in which you explore one of the larger issues in children's literature by analyzing at least three of the works you read this semester.

You will also receive grades for two group presentations (one on a picture book version of a fairy tale and the other on a popular novel) and lead class discussion of one poem, which you will make available to the class as a handout.
COURSE RESPONSIBILITIES AND POLICIES

1.) You must turn in all assigned papers and take all exams to pass this course. Other missing assignments will receive zero points. Late work will also be penalized unless we have come to an understanding before the due date, so keep in touch! We may be able to work something out.

2.) Attendance counts. Participation too. If you have more than four (4) unexcused absences, you will lose 5 of the 10 participation points.

3.) Plagiarism is the act of 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 could result in a failing grade for the plagiarized paper or this course and might also incur other university penalties. Certainly, any paper with serious documentation problems will have to be revised before it can receive a grade. The tutors in the Writing Center (down the hall in CH 301) can provide handouts and answer questions about how to document sources in the papers you write for this class or others. Drop by or call (5929) to make an appointment.

4.) Formal writing assignments should be double-spaced and typed/printed. If possible, use a word-processor so you can revise efficiently. Writing assignments for this class should use MLA form and documentation.

5.) Students with documented disabilities: Please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible so we can begin to work out appropriate accommodations.

GRADES will be based on the percentage you earn of the 150 points possible*.

*I may adjust these point values if we add, cancel, or revise any assignments. **Some assignments can be revised for a higher grade.

Fairy Tale Picture Book Group Presentation = 10
Self-Selected Picture Book Responses (20) + Review (20) = 40
Self-Selected Novel Responses (20) + Review (20) = 40
Self-Selected Pop Novel Responses (10) + Presentation (10) = 20
Poetry Handout & Commentary = 10
Final in-class Essay Exam = 20
Participation (including attendance) = 10

The bottom line . . .
Grades are not curved: 90% (135 points) and above = A
80 - 89% (120-134 points) = B
70 - 79% (105-119 points) = C
60-69% (90-104 points) = D
59% (89 points) and below = F
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English 3405: Children's Literature (Sections 01 + 03)

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Tentative Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Week 1
8/21: Introductions
23: "Learning about Children and Their Literature" (ECL 1: 1-8 only)
25: "Learning about Children and Their Literature" (ECL 1: 9-22)

Week 2
28: "John Newbery" & Nursery Rhymes (CCL 33-38)
30: "Traditional Literature" (ECL 5: 93-102) + "Learning About Books" (ECL 2: 25-32 only)
9/1: "Perrault" (CCL 3) + "Red Riding Hood" (10) & "Cinderella" (17)

Week 3
4: Labor Day: No class meeting
6: "The Brothers Grimm" (CCL 39) & "Aschenputtel" (60)
8: "Joseph Jacobs" (CCL 775) & "The Story of the Three Little Pigs" (783)
+ The True Story of the Three Little Pigs (picture book)
+ "Learning About Books" (ECL 2: 32-37 only)

Week 4
11: Read assorted fairy tales from CCL (TBA)
13: Re-read fairy tale assigned to your group; Presentation Outline DUE at the end of class
15: Presentations; Re-read relevant fairy tales)

Week 5
18: "Picture Books" (ECL 4:67-78) + Where the Wild Things Are
20: Tuesday

Week 6
25: Bring in two additional picture books of your choice*
*There is a list of recommended books at the end of the chapter (ECL 4: 78-92)
27: Guided Response to self-selected picture book DUE
29: Draft Evaluation of picture book DUE
Week 7
10/2: Picture Book Evaluation DUE + *Frog and Toad Together*
4: "Modern Fantasy" (ECL 6: 111-122)
6: *Ella Enchanted*

Week 8
9: *Ella Enchanted*
11: "Realistic Fiction" (ECL 7: 129-140)
13: *Little House on the Prairie*

Week 9
16: *Little House on the Prairie*
18: "Historical Fiction" (ECL 8: 149-159)
20: *Fall Break: No class meeting*

Week 10
23: *From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun*
25: *From the Notebooks of Melanin Sun*
   Also bring self-selected novel
27: First Response to self-selected novel DUE

Week 11
30: Second response to self-selected novel DUE
11/1: Annotated Research + draft Evaluation DUE
3: *No class meeting (I'll be out of town at a conference)*
   Novel Evaluation DUE in my mailbox in CH308 by 4 pm

Week 12
6: *Secret of the Old Clock*
8: *Secret of the Old Clock*
   Also bring self-selected popular novel
10: First Response to popular novel DUE

Week 13
13: Second Response + (opt.) research DUE; Group Presentation Outline DUE during class
15: Presentations
17: *No class meeting (I'll be out of town at a conference)*

Week 14
*THANKSGIVING BREAK*

Week 15
27: "Poetry" (ECL 3: 40-59)
29: "Edward Lear" & Poems (CCL 155-164) + "R.L. Stevenson" (647) & Poems (766-773)
12/1: Bring in a Poem from a book of poetry for children* + Draft Commentary
   * There is a list of recommended poets and books in our textbook (ECL 3: 58-66)

Week 16
4: Poetry Handouts + Commentary DUE
6: Presentations
8: Wrap-up

**Final Exam:** Section 3 meets on Monday the 11\textsuperscript{th} from 2:45 – 4:45
Section 1 meets on Tuesday the 12\textsuperscript{th} from 2:45 – 4:45