ENG 4905-001: Studies in Children's Literature: Twentieth and Twenty-First Century Fantasy

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This course will explore a variety of directions and functions assumed by modern fantasy for young readers. Through attentive reading, discussion and writing, we will examine examples of fantasy as creative myth-making, as social satire and criticism, as polemical revision, as magical realism, as comedy and parody. The texts for the class follow in the order in which they will be discussed.

TEXTS:
Roald Dahl: *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*
Mary Norton: *The Borrowers*
Terry Pratchett: *The Bromeliad Trilogy*
Lynn Reid Banks: *The Indian in the Cupboard*
Raymond Briggs: *The Man* (Handout)
David Almond: *Skellig*
Cornelia Funke: *The Thief Lord*
Neil Gaiman: *Coraline*
C.S. Lewis: *The Chronicles of Narnia*
Philip Pullman: *His Dark Materials*

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Papers: Two 8-10 page papers, each precede by a two page proposal plus bibliography.
   The first paper will focus on one or more works on the course syllabus.
   The second paper will discuss a work or works not on the syllabus.
Exams: A final essay exam
Presentation: Pairs of students will present oral introductions to the works to be discussed. These twenty-minute presentations should address background, relevant biographical material, pertinent critical work, and should also present questions for subsequent class discussion. Presentations should be accompanied by a written outline.
Attendance: Obviously required (see below)
*Note to Graduate Students:* In order to receive graduate credit for the course, you will either write an additional paper or give an additional presentation on your own.

GRADES:
The two papers, presentation and exam will carry equal grading weight. Course grade will be an average of these four grades. (Five grades for graduate credit)

ATTENDANCE:
Missing TEN classes (excused or not) means you will have missed roughly one third of the course and will receive a grade of D. Any absences above ten will result in an F.
COURSE CALENDAR:

WEEK 1  
8/21-23 
Introduction to the course. General discussion: The roots of fantasy literature.

WEEK 2  
8/28-30 
Fantasy, psychology and social satire: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory

WEEK 3  
9/4-9/6 
Fantasies of smallness: The Borrowers

WEEK 4  
9/11-13 
NO CLASS. E-mail draft of first paper proposal by 9/6 for commentary.

WEEK 5  
9/18-20 
Fantasies of smallness: The Bromeliad Trilogy
Revised paper proposal due 9/20

WEEK 6  
9/25-27 
The Bromeliad Trilogy continued

WEEK 7  
10/2-4 
Fantasies of smallness: The Indian in the Cupboard (10/2)
The Man (10/4)

WEEK 8  
10/9-11 
Magical Realism(?): Skellig
First paper due 10/11

WEEK 9  
10/16-18 
Magical Realism(?): The Thief Lord

WEEK 10  
10/23-25 
Terror and Parallel Worlds: Coraline
Proposal for final paper due 10/25

WEEK 11  
10/30-11/1 
Mythologies, Allegories, Philosophies, Religions: The Chronicles of Narnia
10/30: The Magician's Nephew, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe
11/1: The Horse and His Boy, Prince Caspian

WEEK 12 
11/6-8 
The Chronicles of Narnia continued
11/6: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader, The Silver Chair
11/8: The Last Battle
WEEK 13  Mythologies, Allegories, Philosophies, Religions: *His Dark Materials*:  
11/13-15  *The Golden Compass*  

11/20-22  **Thanksgiving Break**  

WEEK 14  *His Dark Materials: The Subtle Knife*  
11/27-29  

WEEK 15  *His Dark Materials: The Amber Spyglass*  
12/4-6  **Final Paper Due 12/6**  

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**English Department Statement on Plagiarism:** "Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism -- 'The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and/or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work' -- has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including immediate assignment of a grade of F for the course."

**Information for Students with Disabilities:** If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of the Office of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.