ENG 4905-001: Studies in Children's Literature

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Tiny tots of either sex  
Adore Tyrannosaurus Rex  
Indeed all children adore  
Any savage carnivore (Ogden Nash?)

In this course, an examination of the role of monsters will lead us through a variety of literature for young people. We will read and discuss literature both ancient and modern in a number of genres: picture book and novel, folktale and myth, fantasy and realism. We will examine monsters both figurative and literal, mythic and mundane. This literature will afford us much discussion of such topics as the pleasures of fear, the confrontation of otherness, the fascination of the grotesque, the persistent image of cannibalism, and the role of the monstrous and demonic in instruction, satire and play.

PAPERS: The course requires two 10-12 page papers, one due near mid term, the other at the end of the semester. Students will generate topics relevant to the course material and present a 1 1/2 page prospectus describing the topics prior to writing the papers.

PRESENTATIONS: One required class presentation. Presentations will serve to introduce each new reading assignment for the course, presenting background and criticism, introducing related material not covered on the syllabus, and raising questions for class discussion. Presenters will turn in a rough outline to accompany the presentation. Graduate Students: For graduate course credit, a second, hour-long presentation to be given in the final weeks of the course will be required. See me for details.

EXAMS: Final essay exam.

GRADES: Grades for the two papers, the presentation, the final exam, and a grade based on attendance and participation will all bear equal weight in the averaging of the final grade for the course. As regards attendance and participation, if you die, you will be expected to attend either in ectoplasmic form or by means of a proxy.

NOTE: All course work must be completed to pass the class.

Plagiarism: 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" (Random House Dictionary of the English Language)—has the right and the responsibility to impose upon
the guilty student an appropriate essay and a grade of F for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs Office. (Also see document attached to this syllabus)

Electronic Writing Portfolio: This course is classified as “writing intensive” and therefore qualifies as a source for EWP submissions for students needing to submit a paper this semester.

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.

TEXTS:
David Almond. *Skellig*
Phillip Pullman. *I Was a Rat.*
Terry Pratchett. *The Wee Free Men*
Adele Griffith. *Sons of Liberty*
Maurice Sendak. *Where the Wild Things Are.*
Carlo Collodi. *Pinocchio.*
Padraic Colum. “Odysseus and the Cyclopes.” (Handout)
Jacob and Wilhelm Grimm. Selected Tales (Online. SurLaLune fairytales.com))
Charles Perrault. “Bluebeard” and “Little Tom Thumb” (Online. SurLaLune fairytales.com)
Sylvia Waugh. *The Mennyms* (Electronic text)
John Bellairs. *The Revenge of the Wizard’s Ghost* (Electronic text)

COURSE CALENDAR

Week I.


Aug. 28. Chthonic Cannibalism.
Colum. “Odysseus and the Cyclopes”
Grimm. 47. “The Juniper Tree” (SurLaLune fairytales.com/authors/grimms)

Week II.

Sept. 2. Jacob & Wilhelm Grimm. *Household Tales.* Trans. Margaret Hunt (1884) (SurLaLune fairytales.com/authors/grimms)
20. “The Valiant Little Tailor”
46. "Fitcher's Bird"
65. "Allerleirauh"
91. "The Gnome"
101. "Bearskin"
108. "Hans the Hedgehog"
136. "Iron John"

Sept. 4. Grimm Tales continued
Perrault. "Bluebeard" and "Little Tom Thumb" (SurLaLune fairytales.com/authors/perrault)
Handout: Guidelines for first paper topic and prospectus.

Week III.
Sept. 9 & 11. Sendak. "Where the Wild Things Are"
Pullman. *I Was a Rat.*

Week IV.
Sept. 16 & 18 To be announced
E mail rough draft of first paper prospectus

Week V.
Sept. 25. *Pinocchio.*
Last day to submit prospectus for first paper.

Week VI.

Week VII.
Oct. 9. FIRST PAPER DUE

Week VIII.

Week IX.

Week X.

Week XI.
Nov. 4 & 6. Pratchett. *The Wee Free Men*

Week XII.
Nov. 11 & 13. Waugh. *The Mennyms*
Last day for submitting 2nd paper prospectus.

Week XIII.
Nov. 18 & 20. Bellairs. *The Revenge of the Wizard's Ghost*

Nov. 25 & 27. Thanksgiving Break

Week XIV.
Dec. 2 & 4. Graduate Student Presentations

Week XV.
Dec. 9 & 11. Graduate Student Presentations
Dec. 11. Last class. Final Paper Due.