

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

COURSE: English 3980: Children's Literature (Full-year course)

INSTRUCTOR: Robin Bourke

CREDIT: 6(3.0) UT(6)

COURSE

DESCRIPTION: English 3980 provides an historical and critical study of Children's Literature from antiquity to the present. It includes books written especially for children and books annexed from general literature by children and young people. Types of works to be studied will include myths, hero tales, fantasy, realistic fiction, and poetry.

PREREQUISITE: EN1010 - or an equivalent course

COURSE

- REQUIREMENTS:
- A. Two 2000 word essays: each essay is worth 25%.
 - B. A one-hour mid-term ~~examination~~ 10%.
 - C. A three-hour final examination 30%.
 - D. Oral Presentation 10%.
 - E. Class participation via directed group work

The essays and class work shall constitute 70% of the course grade and the final examination the remaining 30%.

The Oral Presentation may take the form of an individual report or may be the collaboration of two or three students. In most cases, the entire 1:20 hour time slot will be required. Students may, upon approval, determine their own course-related topic, or they may choose to deal with such areas of discussion as those that follow:

- Racism
- Nursery Rhymes
- Canadian Myths and Legends
- School Curriculum
- Illustration
- History of Children's Books
- Censorship
- Violence and Stereotyping

WHEREVER POSSIBLE, MAKE USE OF THE ANTHOLOGY:

This fine resource introduces a broad spectrum of children's literature, traditional and contemporary, and the bibliographic section is excellent.

COURSE**OBJECTIVES:**

- A. Gaining a broader understanding and appreciation of an intellectual-cultural activity -- namely, the close study of children's literature.
- B. Developing skill in expressing oneself orally and in writing.

INSTRUCTION:

Lectures, and group discussions.

ATTENDANCE:

Attendance is required as students must participate in the assigned group work. Absences will be excused on the basis of verifiable illness, dentistry, accident, or emergency. If any student is unable to attend a particular class it is his/her responsibility to ascertain what has been missed. In addition, students should not make plans for travel, holidays, employment etc. which will interfere with their writing of exams during any scheduled examination time.

EVALUATION:

Evaluation of papers and examinations is based upon

- Understanding of the topic
- Correctness in grammar, punctuation, and spelling
- Clarity and strength of expression
- Ability to follow the specific suggestions or directions provided by the instructor

GRADING SYSTEM:

| <u>SCALE EQUIVALENT</u> | <u>TRANSLATION</u> | <u>APPROXIMATE %</u> |
|-------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 9 | | 90 - 100 |
| <u>8</u> | Excellent | <u>80 - 89</u> |
| 7 | | 72 - 79 |
| <u>6</u> | Good | <u>65 - 71</u> |
| 5 | | 57 - 64 |
| <u>4</u> | Pass | <u>50 - 56</u> |
| <u>3</u> | Failure | 45 - 49 |
| <u>2</u> | Failure | 26 - 44 |
| 1 | | 0 - 25 |

SUGGESTIONS:

Students are encouraged to attend class fully prepared, to take notes in class, and to familiarize themselves with the College Calendar, most particularly the "Policy on Plagiarism". They are also encouraged to take precautions to insure that this handout is not lost.

READING LIST AND TENTATIVE ORDER OF STUDY:

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Homer. | <u>The Odyssey</u> | Penquin |
| Defoe. | <u>Robinson Crusoe</u> | Penquin |
| Swift. | <u>Gulliver's Travels</u> | Gage |
| White. | <u>The Sword in the Stone</u> | Dell |
| Carroll. | <u>Alices' Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass</u> | Puffin |
| Twain. | <u>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</u> | Puffin |
| Stevenson. | <u>Kidnapped</u> | Puffin |
| Kipling. | <u>The Jungle Book</u> | |
| Grahame. | <u>The Wind in the Willows</u> | Collier-MacMillan |
| Tolkien. | <u>The Hobbit</u> | Unwin |
| Adams. | <u>Watership Down</u> | Puffin |
| Sutherland, Livingston. | <u>The Scott, Foresman Anthology of Children's Literature</u> | Scott, Foresman. |