

GRANDE PRAIRIE REGIONAL COLLEGE

DEPARTMENT OF ARTS, EDUCATION, AND COMMERCE

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

INSTRUCTOR: Robin Bourke

OFFICE: C420 **TELEPHONE:** 539-2988

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: EN1000/EN1010 - or an equivalent course

REQUIRED**TEXTS:**

Adams, Richard. Watership Down, Penguin.

Griffith, John W., and Frey, Charles H., eds. Classics of Children's Literature, 4th ed. Prentice-Hall, 1996.

Homer. The Odyssey. Ed. E.V. Rieu, Penguin.

Tolkien, J. R. R. The Hobbit, Unwin.

Twain, Mark. Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Puffin.

White, T. H. The Sword in the Stone.

COURSE**REQUIREMENTS:**

- A. The writing of two essays (totalling at least 4,000 words): each essay is worth 20%.
- B. A one-hour mid-term quiz: 10%.
- C. A three-hour final examination: 25%.
- D. Oral Presentation: 15%.
- E. Attendance and Class Participation: 10%.

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

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

- a) Understanding of the topic
- b) Correctness in grammar, punctuation, and spelling
- c) Clarity and strength of expression
- d) 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
8	Excellent	80 - 89
7		72 - 79
6	Good	65 - 71
5		57 - 64
4	Pass	50 - 56
3	Failure	45 - 49
2	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". **DO NOT LOSE THIS DOCUMENT.**

READING LIST AND TENTATIVE ORDER OF STUDY:

Homer.	<u>The Odyssey</u>
White.	<u>The Sword in the Stone</u>
Carroll.	<u>Alices' Adventures in Wonderland</u> and (Griffith, 331-)
Twain.	<u>Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</u>
Stevenson.	<u>Treasure Island</u> (Griffith, 647-)
Kipling.	<u>The Jungle Book</u> (Griffith, 1043-)
Grahame.	<u>The Wind in the Willows</u> (Griffith, 863-)
Tolkien.	<u>The Hobbit</u>
Adams.	<u>Watership Down</u>