

Notre Dame de Namur University Outline Fall 2008
EN 2624: Children's Literature
Thursdays, 6-10:15
Instructor: Jill L Ferguson, M.A
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650-631-1777 (home office) 650-346-7194 (mobile)
office hours one hour prior to class or by appointment

Catalog Course Description: Extensive exploration of children's literature from early folk and fairytales to contemporary issues in the field; emphasizes reading, evaluating and selecting books for children as a vital part of the child development and childhood creativity. Especially useful for prospective teachers.

Objectives of the Course:

Upon completing the course, students should:

- A. have learned the meaning and importance of children's texts and illustrations in the world of literature
- B. have experienced critical thinking
- C. be better prepared in the teaching of children's literature to youth
- D. understand recurrent themes in children's literature.

Methods of Instruction:

Lecture, class discussion.

Required Texts:

- Carroll, Lewis. Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass and What Alice Found There
- Lewis, C.S. The Lion, the Witch, and The Wardrobe.
- L'Engle, Madeleine. A Wrinkle in Time
- To Be Announced

Examinations:

None.

Presentations:

Two: one at mid-term on the children's book of your choice, one at the last day of class on your research paper.

Papers:

2 short (500-750 word) papers. One long (8-10 pages) research paper. Topics suggested on next page.

Attendance Policy:

Students are expected to attend class and to take part in discussion. Attendance counts towards final grade. More than 4 hours of absences will automatically expel you from the class.

Basis for Grade:

Students are expected to write all required papers. Each of the following categories carry equal weight in arriving at the course grade:

1. Short papers
2. Class attendance and participation
3. Book Report Presentation
4. Final research paper
5. Final Presentation

Class Schedule:

January 21: “Cinderella” (Perrault) and “Aschenputtel” (Grimm)—we will read these fairy tales in class.

January 28: Read Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland & Through the Looking Glass,
short paper #1 due

February 4: Read The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe, **PRESENTATIONS**

February 11: Read A Wrinkle in Time, *short paper #2 due*

February 18: Picture Book discussion

February 25: Read last novel

March 4: **RESEARCH PAPERS DUE; SHORT PRESENTATIONS**

PAPER TOPICS:

Creative writing will be accepted for **one** of your short papers. Possible research topics include, but are not limited to, using a critical theory to analyze a particular children’s book or the works of a single author, analyzing themes common to a particular author or time period, a comparison/contrast of similar story lines and analysis of why the differences or similarities exist, or a critical study of the differences between any work of children’s literature and its cinematic counterpart. Any works of children’s literature may be chosen for the research paper, not just those we have studied in class.

MID-TERM PRESENTATION TOPICS:

Any book may be chosen. . Suggested authors include (in no particular order):

Judy Blume Beverly Cleary Roald Dahl Maurice Sendak Shel Silverstein
 Margaret Wise Brown Donald J. Sobol Carolyn Keene Ezra Jack Keats
 J.K. Rowlings Rudyard Kipling Beatrix Potter Anna Sewell
 Antoine de Saint Exupery Else Holmelund Minarik Mildred D. Taylor Richard Peck
 Rachel Field Robert Louis Stevenson Frank L. Baum Louis Sachar Lois Lowry
 Katherine Paterson Scott O’Dell Madeleine L’Engle Marguerite Henry
 Ruth Sawyer Babette Cole Norton Juster Christopher Paul Curtis Kyoko Mori
 Tomie de Paolo Eve Bunting Avi Louise Fitzhugh