



## Course Outline

**ENGE2360**  
**Children's Literature**

### Course Catalog description:

#### Description

(UGED2191 is double-coded with ENGE2360.) This course provides a framework for understanding the themes and motifs of children's literature. It also looks at representations of children in literature. We will analyse some essential, central texts as well as contemporary popular books for children. The uses of fantasy and the educational aspects of books for children will be discussed, along with notions of childhood and adulthood. Through close reading of set texts, students will be able to engage in critical techniques applicable to most literature. This is because the best texts for children satisfy sensitive adult readers too.

### Learning outcomes

#### Learning outcomes:

Students who are successful in this course will be able to:

Comprehend the history of children's literature (i.e. literature addressed to young readers) in the West

Analyze what developments in children's literature indicate about Western views of 'childhood' in general.

Apply their knowledge of the subject matter by writing two short essays and taking an examination.

Utilize spoken as well as written skills in English through class presentations and seminar discussion

### Course syllabus

Topic	Contents/ fundamental concepts
History of childhood as a concept in the West	From child as 'miniature' adult to childhood as a distinctive, significant phase of human development
History of children's literature in the West	1700-present, including fairy tales and nursery rhymes
Children's literature in 19 <sup>th</sup> century England	Lewis Carroll and Alice, Peter Pan, The Jungle Book?
Children's literature in 19 <sup>th</sup> century America	Different appeals to boy and girl readers



Twentieth-century British children’s literature and religion	J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, and others
Other twentieth-century British children’s literature	Roald Dahl, J.K. Rowling and others
Twentieth-century American children’s literature	Selection, including picture books
Children’s literature and film in the West	Walt Disney, Pixar

**Course components (Learning activities)**

Students taking this class will have to write two short papers, take an exam, and are expected to attend lecture and tutorial regularly and read all assigned material carefully.

**Assessment**

Assessment type	Percentage
Two short essays (5 pages each)	65%
Course examination	25%
Tutorial attendance and participation	10%

**Required and recommended readings**

<p><b>Required readings:</b></p> <p><b>Students will be expected to read about 50 pages per week, a combination of primary and secondary texts. The material will be provided on the learning platform, Blackboard.</b></p> <p><b>We will read one short novel from start to finish, not sure which one yet!</b></p> <p><b>Recommended reading:</b></p> <p><i>The Cambridge Companion to Children’s Literature</i>, ed. M.O. Grenby and Andrea Immel. (Cambridge University Press, 2009).</p>
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**Feedback for evaluation**

<p><b>Feedback for evaluation:</b></p> <p>Students can always contact the professor by email and expect their emails to be answered. The English Department, under the auspices of the Arts Faculty, conducts a detailed course evaluation at the end of the term.</p>
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**TENTATIVE course schedule**

Week One	Introduction; class introductions; literature written for children vs. literature written about children
Week Two	History of ‘childhood’ as a concept in the West
Week Three	History of Children’s literature in the West



Week Four	History of Children’s literature in the West, continued
Week Five	Nursery rhymes and fairy tales
Week Six	19 <sup>th</sup> century English children’s literature (Lewis Carroll and Alice, J.M. Barrie and Peter Pan)
Week Six	19 <sup>th</sup> century English children’s literature, continued
Week Seven	19 <sup>th</sup> century American children’s literature
Week Eight	20 <sup>th</sup> century English children’s literature and religion (J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis)
Week Nine	Other 20 <sup>th</sup> century English children’s literature (Roald Dahl, etc.)
Week Ten	20 <sup>th</sup> century American children’s literature
Week Eleven	Children’s literature and film (esp. Disney, Pixar)
Week Twelve	Additional topic of student interest
Week Thirteen	Conclusion

**Contact details for teacher(s) or TA(s)**

<b>Professor/Lecturer/Instructor:</b>	
Name:	Jason Gleckman
Office Location:	
Telephone:	
Email:	<a href="mailto:gjason@cuhk.edu.hk">gjason@cuhk.edu.hk</a>
Teaching Venue:	
Website:	
Other information:	

**Details of course website:** We will be using the Blackboard platform, hosted by the University.

**Academic honesty and plagiarism**

<p><b>Academic honesty and plagiarism</b></p> <p>Attention is drawn to University policy and regulations on honesty in academic work, and to the disciplinary guidelines and procedures applicable to breaches of such policy and regulations. Details may be found at <a href="http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/">http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/</a>.</p> <p>With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed <a href="#">declaration</a> that they are aware of these policies, regulations, guidelines and procedures. For group projects, all students of the same group should be asked to sign the declaration.</p> <p>For assignments in the form of a computer-generated document that is principally text-based and submitted via VeriGuide, the statement, in the form of a receipt, will be issued by the system upon students’ uploading of the soft</p>
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copy of the assignment. Assignments without the receipt will not be graded by teachers. Only the final version of the assignment should be submitted via VeriGuide.