

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 19th century England | Lewis Carroll and Alice, Peter Pan, The Jungle Book? |
| Children's literature in 19th century America | Different appeals to boy and girl readers |



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| 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

Required readings:

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.

We will read one short novel from start to finish, not sure which one yet!

Recommended reading:

The Cambridge Companion to Children's Literature, ed. M.O. Grenby and Andrea Immel. (Cambridge University Press, 2009).

Feedback for evaluation

Feedback for evaluation:

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.

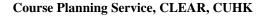
TENTATIVE course schedule

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 19th century English children's literature (Lewis Carroll and Alice, J.M. Barrie

and Peter Pan)

Week Six 19th century English children's literature, continued

Week Seven 19th century American children's literature

Week Eight 20th century English children's literature and religion (J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S.

Lewis)

Week Nine Other 20th century English children's literature (Roald Dahl, etc.)

Week Ten 20th 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)

| Professor/Lecturer/Instructor: | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Name: | Jason Gleckman |
| Office Location: | |
| Telephone: | |
| Email: | gjason@cuhk.edu.hk |
| Teaching Venue: | |
| Website: | |
| Other information: | |

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

Academic honesty and plagiarism

Academic honesty and plagiarism

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 http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/policy/academichonesty/.

With each assignment, students will be required to submit a signed declaration 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.

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



Course Planning Service, CLEAR, CUHK 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.