



AMBROSE
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

EN 240 Children's Literature (3)

Fall 2008

Dr. Tim Heath

Office: L2065

Class Times: 8:15 – 9:45 T/Th

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Office Phone: 403-410-2000 ext. 5904

Class Location: Room A2141

Office Hours: T/Th 1:30 to 3:30 or by
appointment

Required Texts

<i>Charlotte's Web</i>	White, E.B.	Harper Trophy
<i>The Hobbit</i>	Tolkien, J.R.R.	Harper Collins
<i>The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe</i>	Lewis, C.S.	Harper Trophy
<i>The Norton Anthology of Children's Literature</i>	Zipes, Jack, et al. eds.	Norton
<i>The Paper Bag Princess</i>	Munch, Robert	Annick Press
<i>The Velveteen Rabbit</i>	Williams, Margery	Avon Reissue

Note: the instructor will supplement the text with class handouts as needed.

Course Description

English 240 offers an introduction to and study of the major genres in children's literature: folktales, hero tales, myths, literary folktales, fantastic and realistic prose fiction to name the key forms. The course provides students with a critical method of reading and interpreting children's literature. In addition, to aid in our consideration of the major themes and issues at work in children's literature we will examine historical and current concepts of the child and childhood.

Course Schedule

September	16	Introduction
	18	Reading children's literature, a primer
	23	Alphabets: Comenius, from <i>Orbis Pictus</i> ; "The Childes Guide"; <i>A Little Book for Children</i> , "A Was an Archer"; <i>The Picture Alphabet</i> , "A Was an Archer"; Dr. Suess, From <i>Dr. Suess's ABC</i>
	25	Hornbooks and Primers: <i>The New England Primer</i> , <i>New Canadian Readers</i> , Preface from <i>A First Reader</i> , <i>Fun with Dick and Jane</i> , "Jane Helps"

	30	Folktales: Perrault, “Little Red Riding Hood”; Brothers Grimm, “Little Red Cap”; Marelle, “The True History of Little Golden-hood”; De La Mare, “Little Red Riding Hood”; Storr, “Little Polly Riding Hood”
October	2	Folktales: Emberly, “Ruby”; Block, “Wolf” (Explication 1 due)
	7	Christian Stories: <i>A Token for Children; The Pilgrim’s Progress; Divine Songs for Children;</i>
	9	Literary Folktales: “The Light Princess”; “The Happy Prince”
	14	<i>The Paper Bag Princess</i>
	16	Animal Fables: “The Sea-Thing Child”; <i>The Velveteen Rabbit</i> (essay 1 due)
	21	<i>Charlotte’s Web;</i>
	23	<i>Charlotte’s Web</i>
	28	<i>Charlotte’s Web</i>
	30	Mid-term exam
November	4	Fantasy: <i>The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe</i>
	6	<i>The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe</i> (explication 2 due)
	11	Remembrance Day, campus closed (no classes)
	13	Legends: Browning, “The Pied Piper of Hamelin”; <i>History of Robin Hood</i>
	18	<i>The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe</i>
	20	<i>The Hobbit</i>
	25	<i>The Hobbit</i>
	27	<i>The Hobbit</i> (essay 2 due)
December	2	Young Adult Literature and Culture: Montgomery, “Each in His Own Tongue”; Carrier, “The Hockey Sweater”
	4	“Each in His Own Tongue”; “The Hockey Sweater”
	9	Visual Literacy: Picture Books—b&w, colour
	11	Last class (exam review)

Course Requirements

1. Students should do all the prescribed readings before class and be prepared for lively participation in class discussions.
2. Assignments are due on the dates specified. Late assignments will not be accepted, unless extenuating circumstances can be shown.
3. To receive a passing grade in the course, all assignments, quizzes, and exams must be submitted to the instructor.
4. Plagiarism in any of its forms will not be tolerated.
5. Students may not submit work done for another class.
6. Students are responsible for all the information given in class and also for any changes to the syllabus announced in class.
7. Participation grades and attendance are strongly correlated: good attendance and participation will earn a strong participation mark.

Grading

Explications	10% (two at 5% each)
Essay 1	10%
Essay 2	20%
Midterm exam	20%
Participation	10%
Final exam	<u>30%</u>
	100

Final grades for the course appear as letter grades. The table below shows the percentage equivalents for each letter grade.

Letter Grade	Percentage
A+	96-100
A	91-95
A-	86-90
B+	82-85
B	75-81
B-	72-74
C+	68-71
C	63-67
C-	60-62
D+	56-59
D	50-55
F	0-49

Important Notes

Last day to drop or add a course without permission: **19 September**

Last day to withdraw with tuition refund: **19 September**

Last day to withdraw or change to audit without penalty: **21 November**

Last day request revised time for final exam: **5 December**