

Literature and Psychology COLI 211B - 03
Children's Literature and Constructing of the Self.
MWF 9:40 – 10:40 am, Library North 1404

Instructor: Natalia Andrievskikh
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Course Description:

The course will explore the connections between psychology and literature for and about children. Are children's stories and fairy tales really written for children? Or are they ways to rethink allegorically the adult experience of dealing with life choices, relationships, and images of self? How do stories that we learn in childhood later shape our world view and determine our values and beliefs? We'll also look at the ways modern children's culture uses archetypes and the ways in which popular culture influences the construction of self. The characters in the books that we will read often behave like grown-ups or are exposed to the adult reality of challenges and contradictions and are actively using imagination to make sense of the complex world around them. The course will rely on works by Carl Jung and Sigmund Freud, among others. Students will learn to apply theory of the collective unconscious and the uncanny to interpret the motifs of desire, fear, dreaming, as well as images of the self and the other in children's literature.

Your responsibilities:

It is a discussion course and will function best when students participate. Active participation in the discussions is a significant part of your grade and is crucial for the success of the course. You will be asked to post your initial responses to the readings on the Blackboard. These will be used to gear up our in-class discussions. Also, you will be responsible for one 8-15 minutes presentation (in groups of two) on the topic connected with the readings (you'll discuss the topic with the instructor).

This course fulfills the C requirement and will be writing-intensive. There will be in-class writing assignments, peer reviews, and discussions of writing strategies for your papers. You will write two 5 page essays and a 10 page final paper. Turning assignments in on time is a condition of receiving credit for them.

Students are encouraged to seek help anytime during appointed office hours. Please also feel free to e-mail me with any questions or concerns.

Required Books (available from the bookstore):

"The Tao of Pooh" by Benjamin Hoff
"Good, Brother" by Peter Marcus
"Dandelion Wine" by Ray Bradbury
Janet E. Gardner's Writing About Literature (2nd Ed.)

The following required books can be easily found in any library:

"Winnie-the-Pooh" by A. A. Milne
"Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" by Lewis Carroll
"Peter Pan" by James M. Barrie

All other required reading will be available on E-reserve. Please read ahead.

Attendance:

Each student is allowed 3 unexcused absences. Every absence after the third will lower your mark by half a grade (from B to B-, for example, or from C to C-). Please do not be late to class. Being late for 10 minutes and more counts as an absence.

Grading:

2 papers of 5 pages: 20% of the grade each

Final paper (10 pages): 30% of the grade

Presentation: 10% of the grade

Participation: 20% of the grade (blackboard postings, contributions to discussions, in-class writing, etc)

All final essays/written work must be typed (Times New Roman, 12-point font, double spaced and formatted according to MLA standards – the MLA handbook is recommended so that your essays meet these standards, which will count towards the final grade).

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism is a serious violation of the University's policies and will not be tolerated.

Plagiarism involves putting somebody else's intellectual property into your written work without clearly indicating the source and stressing that in order to pursue your own argument you are using somebody else's ideas as a contribution. That includes paraphrasing without references, quoting without using citation marks and without indicating the source etc. The consequences of plagiarism range from failure of an assignment to expulsion from the university. If you have any questions, please consult the university's official policies on plagiarism and academic honesty.

Students with disabilities:

Students with disabilities who wish to receive reasonable accommodations, as required by law, should identify themselves to the professor as early in the semester as possible.

Week 1 08/31 M 09/2 W 09/4 F	Introduction & Syllabus. In-class writing. Carl Jung " <i>The Archetypes and the Collective Unconscious</i> ". Figure of the Witch in world folk tales
Week 2 09/7 M – No Class (Labor Day) 09/9 W 09/11 F	- Cinderella: different cultural interpretations. Screening. Tale of the One Who Went Off to Learn Fear: fear; initiation.
Week 3 09/14 M 09/16 W 09/18 F *	Freud " <i>The Interpretation of Dreams</i> ". Sleeping Beauty: myths of the seasons; incest; womanhood. <u>Writing About Literature</u> pg. 2-11. Schedule of presentations.

Week 4 09/21 M 09/23 W 09/25 F	Freud " <i>The Uncanny</i> ". Children's Horror Tales. <u>Writing About Literature</u> pg. 16-43.
Week 5 09/28 M - No class (Yom Kippur) 09/30 W 10/2 F	- Big Fish: movie screening. In-class writing. Big Fish: screening continued. Generating questions.
Week 6 10/5 M 10/7 W 10/9 F	Big Fish: extracts from the book. Comparative discussion. Shape Shifting, Dwarfism, Gigantism. Peer review for Essay 1. <u>Writing About Literature</u> pg. 43-79.
Week 7 10/12 M 10/14 W 10/16 F	Student Presentations. Student Presentations Student Presentations. Essay 1 Due.
Week 8 10/19 M 10/21 W 10/23 F	Winnie-the-Pooh. Lecture: Vadim Rudnev on Winnie-the-Pooh. <u>Writing About Literature</u> pg. 110-138
Week 9 10/26 M 10/28 W 10/30 F	The Tao of Pooh. Personality Test. In-class writing. Personal Philosophies. Reading Aloud.
Week 10 11/2 M 11/4 W 11/6 F	Alice in Wonderland. Alice in Wonderland. Peer Review for Essay 2.
Week 11 11/9 M 11/11 W 11/13 F	Peter Pan. Peter Pan. <u>Writing About Literature</u> pg. 143-151. Essay 2 Due.
Week 12 11/16 M 11/18 W 11/20 F	Good, Brother. Good, Brother. Brainstorming and in-class proposal writing for the Final Essay
Week 13 11/23 M 11/25 W* 11/27 F - No Class (Thanksgiving)	The Lake. Guest Speaker. Research Reviews. -

Week 14 11/30 M 12/2 W 12/4 F	Student Presentations. Student Presentations. Student Presentations.
Week 15 12/7 M 12/9 W 12/11 F	Dandelion Wine. Dandelion Wine. Peer Review for the Final Essay.
Week 16 12/14 M 12/18 F	<i>Finals Week</i> Final Paper Due. End-of-Semester Celebration.

I reserve the right to change the syllabus at any time.