

COMPARATIVE LITERATURE 240 (cross-listed with German, Medieval Studies, and Russian): THE FAIRY TALE (fall 2009) Z. Pavlovskis-Petit (zppetit@binghamton.edu)

Note: All numbers are page references to The Complete Grimm's Fairy Tales (Pantheon Books), except when prefixed by a letter as follows:

A = Afanas'ev, Russian Fairy Tales (Pantheon Books)

L = Luthi, Once Upon a Time (Indiana U. Press)

You will also be using these books (all except Bettelheim available at the Campus Store):

Apuleius, Cupid and Psyche (Penguin Epics XII)

Opie, P. & I., The Classic Fairy Tales (Oxford U. Press)

Bettelheim, The Uses of Enchantment (on reserve)

Propp, The Morphology of the Folktale

Stein & Corbett, Psyche's Stories I

PART I — THE FORM OF THE FAIRY TALE

Sept. 1 — introductory remarks; **history of fairy tale study**; **oral transmission** of tales

Sept. 3 — discussion of **folk tales** vs. **literary tales**; **Olrik's laws**

- a. The Bladder, the Straw, and the Shoe (A 590); The Straw, the Coal, and the Bean (102)
- b. The Fox and the Lobster (A 310); The Hare and the Hedgehog (760)
- c. Cinderella (12; also in Opie); The Golden Slipper (A 44)
- d. Sleeping Beauty (in Opie); Little Briar Rose (237)

(also read L. 21-34, "Sleeping Beauty: The Meaning and Form of Fairy Tales," and 47-57, "The Dragon Slayer: The Style of the Fairy Tale")

Sept. 8 — lecture: **motifs**, their uses and classification; the **style** of the fairy tale

Sept. 10 and 15 — discussion of:

- a. Burenushka the Little Red Cow (A 146); One-Eye, Two-Eyes, and Three-Eyes (585)
- b. The Feather of Finist the Bright Falcon (A 580); Maid Maleen (801); Allerleirauh (326)
- c. The Golden Goose (322); The Princess Who Never Smiled (A 360); The Wondrous Wonder, the Marvelous Marvel (13)
- d. The Frog-King (17); The Frog Princess (A 119)

(also have a good look at the lists of motifs in the Motif Index of Folk Literature, in the Library)

Sept. 17 and 22 — discussion of fairy tales and **related forms**: myths, legends, ballads:

- a. Genesis, chs. 1-3 (use any Bible); The Lord's Animals and the Devil's (642); the story of Pandora (handout); Goldilocks and the Three Bears (in Opie); Two Kinds of Luck (A 501)

b. Odyssey, bk. 9 (widely available); The One-Eyed Evil (A 404); The Voyages of Sindbad (handout)

c. Mother Holle (133); Rapunzel (73); Bluebeard (in Opie); Our Lady's Child (23)

d. The Pied Piper of Hamelin (handout); Nikita the Tanner (A 310)

e. Binnorie (handout); The Singing Bone (148); The Miraculous Pipe (A 425)
(also read L, 35-46, "The Seven Sleepers: Saint's Legend, Local Legend, Fairy Tale")

Sept. 24 — lecture: fairy tale as "simple form"

Sept. 29 — discussion of **atypical** or disturbing stories:

a. Puss in Boots (in Opie); Bukhtan Bukhtanovich (A 168)

b. King Thrushbeard (244); The Yellow Dwarf (in Opie)

c. The Death of the Little Hen (365); The Death of the Cock (A 17)

d. Jorinda and Joringel (339)

Oct. 1 — lecture: **structuralist** analysis

Oct. 6, 8, and 13 — discussion of:

a. The Peasant, the Bear, and the Fox (A 288); The Peasant and the Devil (767)

b. Daughter and Stepdaughter (278); Jack Frost (A 366)

c. Iron Hans (612)

d. Emelya the Simpleton (A 46); Ivanushko the Little Fool (A 62); The Little Peasant (311)

e. The Moon (713); Little Red-Cap (139)

Oct. 15 — lecture: **morphological** analysis

Oct. 20 and 22 — discussion of:

a. The Magic Swan Geese (A 349)

b. Mother Holle (133); The Fairies (in Opie)

c. Prince Ivan, the Firebird, and the Grey Wolf (A 612); The Golden Bird (272)
(also read Propp, chs. 2-6, 9B, 9D, and have a good look at appendices 1, 2, and 4)

PART II — THE MEANING OF THE FAIRY TALE

Oct. 27 — lecture: **anthropological** approaches: archaic religion, magic, rites of passage

Oct. 29, Nov. 3 and 5 — discussion of:

a. The Sun, the Moon, and the Raven (A 588)

b. The Story of the Youth Who Went Forth to Learn What Fear Was (29)

c. Rumpelstiltskin (264)

d. Ivanko the Bear's Son (A 221); The Three Kingdoms, Copper, Silver, and Golden (A 375)

e. Snow White and Rose Red (664); Two Ivans, Soldier's Sons (A 463)

- f. Vasilisa the Beautiful (A 439); Prince Danila Govorila (A 351)
- g. stories of witchcraft (in Cupid and Psyche, 68-91)

Nov. 10 — lecture: **psychological** approaches (Freudian)

Nov. 12, 17, and 19 — discussion of:

- a. Rumpelstiltskin (254); The Pig Prince (handout); Ivan the Peasant's Son and the Thumbsized Man (A 262); Dawn, Evening, and Midnight (A 457)
 - b. Bukhtan Bukhtanovich (168); Clever Elsie (171)
 - c. Donkey Cabbages (551); King Bear (A 393); The Milk of Wild Beasts (A 304)
 - d. Maria Morevna (A 553); The Maiden Tsar (229)
 - e. Koshchey the Deathless (A 485)
- (also read Bettelheim, *The Uses of Enchantment*)

Nov. 24 — lecture: **psychological** approaches (Jungian)

Dec. 1, 3, and 8 — discussion of:

- a. The Goose Girl (404); The Singing Tree and the Talking Bird (A 184)
 - b. Cupid and Psyche; Constanza/Constanzo (handout)
 - c. The Devil's Sooty Brother (463); The Devil with the Three Golden Hairs (151); Go I Know Not Whither, Bring Back I Know Not What (A 504)
 - d. The two Kings' Children (515); The Sea King and Vasilisa the Wise (A 427)
- (also read Stein&Corbett, *Psyche's Stories*)

Dec. 10 — lecture: **socio-historical** approaches; discussion of:

- a. Sweet Porridge (475); Tale of the Land of Milk and Honey (handout)
- b. The Cock and the Handmill (A 387); The Magic Shirt (A 10); The Blue Light (530)
- c. The Fisherman and His Wife (103); The Goldfish (A 528)
- d. Hans in Luck (381); Barter (A 338)

ASSIGNMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

Tests: A **take-home midterm examination** covering the first half of the course will be assigned Oct. 22 and due Oct. 29. A **take-home final examination** covering the second half of the course will be assigned Dec. 10 and due Dec. 15.

Papers: The **first paper**, an original fairy tale of 10 pages or more, incorporating specific assigned motifs, will be assigned Sept. 29 and due Oct. 6. The **second paper**, 12 pages or more, will be an essay analyzing a work of fiction or a movie based on or resembling fairy tales; the choice of topic must be approved by Nov. 3 and the paper will be due Dec. 10.

Several movies will be shown outside class hours (times to be announced); attendance will be optional but those able to attend will have an opportunity to earn some extra credit by writing

movie reviews.

Grades: The grade for the course will be based approximately 50% on the midterm and final examinations (25% each) and 50% on the first and second papers (25% each). Each movie review may earn between 1 and 3 points added to the overall grade. (A perfect grade for the course is 100.)

Unexcused **absence** from more than 2 classes will lower the overall grade, and coming to class late will be viewed as absence. Excellence in **class discussion** will raise the overall grade.