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Department of English & Writing Studies

The Many Faces of Harry Potter **English 2092F (001)** Fall 2013

Instructor: Dr. Gabrielle Ceraldi

Date/Time: Tuesday 7:00pm-10:00pm

Location: Spencer Engineering Building 1200

Course Description

The wildly successful Harry Potter series has been noted for its capacity to cross traditional boundaries of age and gender. The series features a young protagonist and young boys as the primary audience, but has also attracted an enthusiastic readership among children of both sexes. Age boundaries have proven to be equally elastic; the popularity of the series among adults has even prompted the creation of an adult-friendly edition of the series with dark cover art suitable for reading on public transportation. The flexibility of the series may relate to its roots in a wide variety of genres including the gothic novel, detective fiction, fantasy, adventure, and even the dystopian novel. This course will examine the Harry Potter series in relation to all these genres. We will read all seven books alongside other novels and short stories that illustrate the generic conventions Rowling is working with. There will also be opportunity to consider the translation of the series into film.

Objectives:

Successful students who complete the course will be better able to:

- Recognize how the Harry Potter series employs conventions from a variety of genres;
- Identify and analyze the basic elements of literature such as plot, character, point of view, theme, setting, imagery, and diction;

Accommodation

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments worth 10% or more of their final grade must apply to