

Department of English & Writing Studies

Children's Literature
English 2033E (650)
Fall/Winter 2019-20**Instructor:** Dr. Clarissa Suranyicsuranyi@uwo.ca

University College 1424

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Office Hours: by appointment only (telephone or in person)**Antirequisite:****Please read the following information completely and carefully. You are responsible for it.**

and an exploration of the texts from a number of different perspectives. The readings are from significant books written for children, selected primarily for literary quality. Some attention will be given to the historic evolution of children's literature as a separate class, but the principal aim of the course will be to consider the nature and development of the major genres: fairy tales, nonsense, adventure fiction, the domestic novel, fantasy, and animal stories. You should come away from this course with an enriched understanding of the variety of texts written for children and the variety of critical responses to them.

Important information about this online course:

This course demands as much time and effort from you as a conventional lecture-based university course in literature. You are expected to read the assigned work and to engage with the material, the instructor, and the other students in the course. You are required to participate in the course regularly, as you would in a regular classroom. This participation will take the form of active reading of course materials, asking questions of the instructor, and contributing to online discussions. All of this means that you must devote a minimum of ten hours per week to the course in order to keep up with the reading and complete the assignments. Assignments will be submitted online, so be sure to work out any technical problems quickly by contacting ITS at 519-661-3800.

This course is designed for OWL, which operates as an online classroom. Five percent of your grade depends on regular participation (more on participation below). You must have regular online access to do this; this access can be from home, from a computer lab on campus, or from a public library, but you must ensure that you have access to the internet on a regular and consistent basis. (This means that, in the event of a service interruption to your internet connection at home, you are expected to find another way to access the course materials.)

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course, the successful student will be able to:

Analyze texts employing the skills of literary analysis, considering features such as narrative technique, symbolism, rhyme and rhythm, layout and illustrations, etc.;

Understand the political, religious, moral, and philosophical underpinnings of the books on the course;

Communicate ideas effectively in writing (through discussion posts and persuasive essays);

Develop a specific, focused argument and support it with textual evidence.

Methods of Evaluation

Thesis/Outline for Essay 1	Due Sept. 27	(Worth 5% of Essay 1 mark)	
Essay 1	Due Nov. 1	1000 words	15%
Essay 2	Due Jan. 24	1500 words	20%
Essay 3	Due Mar. 13	2000 words	25%
Quizzes			5%
Participation		500 words	5%
Final exam	TBA (April Examination period)		30%

Please note: The Department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar through Student Center.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <https://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

How to Proceed:

Click on the Getting Started tab on the left-hand menu bar on our OWL course site, which explains how to proceed through the cou

For the most part, the Forums are for students; however, I will interject if a student has posted a problematic reading or an error, if I want to emphasize a particular point or issue that has been raised, or if students seem to need some help to push their ideas further. I try to keep my interventions brief, so often they will take the form of a question stemming from the previous discussions.

I will be locking the discussion threads for each week so that the discussion stays on track. For example, the discussion forum for Unit 1, which corresponds to the first full week of classes, will be locked on **Sunday, Sept. 15 at 10:00 pm EDT** following Sunday, and so forth.

Self Tests:

At the end of the course notes for each unit, you will find several self-testing questions. These questions are designed to test your comprehension of the assigned reading and your grasp of the lecture material. If you have read the material, you should have no difficulty answering the questions. You may consult your books freely, of course, as these self-tests are for your own benefit.

Final Exam:

The final exam will be written in person at the approved exam centre that you selected when you registered for the course (see the [Distance Studies section of the Registrar](#)). It will not be an online exam. The final exam is scheduled by the Registrar. You must be prepared to write the exam on the dates assigned: do not make travel plans until the final exam schedule is posted.

Page Layout and Citation Styles:

Your essays must follow MLA format in both page layout and citation style. Here is some basic information:

- 1) In the top left-hand corner of the first page, put your name, the name of your professor, the name of the course, and the date.
- 2) Number your pages in the top right-hand corner.
- 3) Double space.
- 4) If you use a snappy, attention-grabbing title, follow it up with an informative subtitle that indicates your topic and the works you will be discussing (e.g. Touching Pitch: Moral Ambiguity in R. *Treasure Island*).
- 5) Titles of novels and other long works should be *italicized*. Titles of short poems, articles, and short stories should be in quotation marks.
- 6) Introduce quotations in your own words, identifying the speaker 12 0 612 792 reW1i

Unit 5: Edward Lear, *The Complete Nonsense of Edward Lear*
Read the following poems and stories:

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All limericks
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Unit 6: Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and *Through the Looking-Glass*

Adventure

Unit 7: Robert Louis Stevenson, *Treasure Island*

Unit 8: Beatrix Potter, *The Tale of Peter Rabbit*

The Tale of Peter Rabbit: A Small

Unit 9: J.M. Barrie, *Peter Pan*

Realism

Unit 10: E. Nesbit, *The Story of the Treasure Seekers*

Unit 11: John Boyne, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas*

Unit 12: Louise Fitzhugh, *Harriet the Spy*

Harriet the Spy

The Domestic Novel

Unit 13: Louisa May Alcott, *Little Women*

Unit 14: L.M. Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*

Individual in *Anne of Green Gables*