

Department of English & Writing Studies

English 2092F (001)  
The Many Faces of Harry Potter  
Fall 2024

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Office Hours: M, W: 12:30 -1:30 pm

Course Description

The wildly successful Harry Potter series has been noted for its capacity to cross traditional boundaries. Conventional wisdom claims that young girls won't read a book with a male protagonist and young boys won't read a book by a female author, yet Harry Potter has found 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 using.

Learning Objectives:

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

- x Recognize how the Harry Potter series employs conventions from a variety of genres;
- x Identify and analyze the basic elements of literature such as plot, character, point of view, theme, setting, imagery, and diction;
- x Understand the political, religious, moral, and philosophical underpinnings of the texts on the course;
- x Write an essay about a work of literature containing an effective thesis supported by adequate evidence from the original text;
- x Offer independent insights, beyond those outlined in class;
- x Organize and present ideas clearly and effectively.

Course Materials

Required Texts (available from the Bookstore at Western) :  
J.K. Rowling, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone, Bloomsbury

Methods of Evaluation

Close Reading (750 words, due Oct. 1)	15%
Essay (1500 words, due Nov. 21)	35%
Film Discussion (300 words, due Nov. 28)	10%







## Grading Rubric

### THESIS

- x Is there a unifying idea in this paper?
- x Is this idea specific, original, and argumentative?
- x Is this idea explained clearly near the beginning of the paper?

### ARGUMENT

- x Does the material in this paper go beyond description to explore the implications and meaning of the text(s)?
- x Have opposing ideas been acknowledged and given a convincing response?

### ORGANIZATION

- x Do paragraph breaks reflect a meaningful shift in topic?
- x Does the opening sentence of each paragraph identify the central idea of that paragraph and its relationship to the thesis?

### USE OF SOURCES

- x Is there textual evidence to back up each claim in the paper?
- x Is there an attention to detail (word choice, imagery, etc.) that adds intricacy to the argument?
- x Are quotations integrated smoothly and cited correctly?

### STYLE

- x Is the writing style clear, concise, and readable, so that the focus falls on the ideas in (f)-6.6 (oc)-2 (us) .

Sample MLA Format

Surname 1

Your Name

Name of T.A./House

English 2092G

11 February 2020

Wit and Wizardry

The Armchair Detective in Edgar Allan Poe's "The Purloined Letter" and  
J.K. Rowling's Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone

If you have a snappy, attention-grabbing title, follow it with an informative subtitle that indicates your topic as well as the works you will be discussing. Titles of books should be italicized. Titles of articles and short stories should be put in "Quotation Marks." Introduce quotations in your own words, identifying the speaker and context:

EXAMPLE: As Hermione points out, "A lot of the greatest wizards haven't got an ounce of logic" (207). Use ellipses to indicate where you have omitted words from the quotation, and put any changes in brackets: EXAMPLE: Draco opposes the admission of Muggle-borns to Hogwarts: "I really don't think they should let [Muggle-borns] in, do you? ... I think they should keep it in the old wizarding families" (61).

If the quotation is longer than four lines, do not use quotations marks; instead, indent the passage five spaces (one tab) from the left and continue to double space.

EXAMPLE: Harry sees his family for the first time in the Mirror of Erised:

They just looked at him, smiling. And slowly, Harry looked into the faces of the other people in the mirror and saw other pairs of green eyes like his, other noses like his, even a little old man who looked as though he had Harry's knobby knees – Harry was looking at his family, for the first time in his life. (153)

At the end of the essay, list all the works you have discussed or used in the preparation of your paper. Staple the top left hand corner.

Works Cited

Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. Bloomsbury, 1997.