CHILDREN’S LITERATURE

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Probably the first literature we fall in love with, children's literature shapes individuals and cultures in profound ways, investing us with important mythologies and guiding our identities and behaviors. This course will examine fairy tales, some works from the "golden age" of children's stories, and some contemporary works. We will enrich our reading of the fiction with some of the central theorists of this genre, including Jack Zipes, and Maria Tatar.

TEXTS: Because many of these books are past copyright, they can be found on line, for instance, on the Project Gutenberg site at www.gutenberg.org. You are welcome to use this resource, which often has very interesting versions of these texts. For instance, look at the HTML version of The Adventures of Tom Sawyer, published in 1884. However, some of the texts available for purchase through Broad Street Books are special editions which contain critical articles and supplemental material, and you should plan on buying them. These are marked with an asterisk (*) in the list below.

There are some picture books and other materials copied to Moodle; in the syllabus, I have marked these with an (M).

*The Cambridge Companion to Children’s Literature, eds. M.O. Grenby and Andrea Immel (listed in the schedule as CCCL)
*The Annotated Classic Fairy Tales, Maria Tatar (listed in the schedule as “Tatar”)
*Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland, Lewis Carroll, ed. Richard Kelly
*Peter Pan, J.M. Barrie, ed. Anne Hiebert Alton
The Magician's Nephew, C.S. Lewis
The Enchanted Castle, Edith Nesbit
Half Magic, Edward Eager
The BFG, Roald Dahl
Tom Sawyer, Mark Twain
Eight Cousins, Louisa May Alcott
The Wind in the Willows, Kenneth Grahame
The Borrowers, Mary Norton
Mistress Masham’s Repose, T.H. White
A Wrinkle in Time, Madeleine L’Engle
The Jungle Book, Rudyard Kipling
Little Lord Fauntleroy, Frances Hodgson Burnett
Pollyanna, Eleanor H. Porter

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Two short papers of 4-5 pages each, and a final research project of 15-20 pages. One class presentation.
**SCHEDULE OF READINGS, ASSIGNMENTS, AND LECTURE TOPICS**

*An Education in Literacy*

**Week 1**

Thursday, Sep. 15: The idea of the child; literature for children

*Chicka Chicka Boom Boom* (M)
*Fun With Dick and Jane* (M)
*The Cat in the Hat* (M)

From *The Cambridge Companion to Children’s Literature* (hereafter CCCL):

Preface and Chronology
Ch. 1, 2, 3, and 8

From Tatar: “Scenes of Storytelling,” pp. 4-15

*An Education in Pleasure*

**Week 2**

Thursday, Sep. 22: Language and Pictures

*The BFG*
*Amelia Bedelia* (M)
*Madeline* (M)
*Liza Lou and the Yeller Belly Swamp* (M)

From CCCL: Ch. 5, “The fear of poetry”

*The Very Hungry Caterpillar* (M)
*Mother Goose* (M)

From Tatar: Appendix 3, “Walter Crane’s Illustrations”
Appendix 4, “George Cruikshank’s Illustrations”

From CCCL: Ch. 4, “Picture-book worlds and ways of seeing”

*An Education in Morality*

**Week 3**

Thursday, Sep. 29: *Aesop’s Fables* (M)

“Matilda,” Hilaire Belloc (M)

From Tatar: all the Perrault stories
“Setting Standards for Civilization Through Fairy Tales,” Jack Zipes (M)
“The Bloody Chamber,” Angela Carter (M)

from Tatar: all the Grimm Brothers and Hans Christian Andersen’s stories
“Who’s Afraid of the Brothers Grimm?” and “Hans Christian Andersen and the Discourse of the Dominated” (M)
Beast Fables

Week 4
Thursday, Oct. 6: *The Wind in the Willows*
From CCCL: Ch. 15, “Animal and object stories”

ESSAY # 1 DUE IN CLASS

Difference and Audience

Week 5
Thursday, Oct. 13: *The Borrowers*
From CCCL: Ch. 11, “Ideas of difference in children’s literature”

*Mistress Masham’s Repose*
From CCCL: Ch. 16, “Humour and the body in children’s literature”

Week 6
Thursday, Oct. 20: *Little Black Sambo* (M)
*The Story of Babaji* (M)
*Sam and the Tigers* (M)
*Nappy Hair* (M)

“What Has Happened to the ‘All-White’ World of Children’s Books?” (M)

Magic in the World

Week 7
Thursday, Oct. 27: *The Enchanted Castle*
*Half Magic*

Fantasy, and Science Fiction

Week 8
Thursday, Nov. 3: *The Magician’s Nephew*
*A Wrinkle in Time*

ESSAY # 2 DUE IN CLASS

Fantastical Boys and Girls

Week 9
Nov. 10: *Peter Pan*
*Alice in Wonderland*
Wild Children

Week 10
Thursday, Nov. 17:  
*Pippi Longstocking* (M)  
*Eloise* (M)  
*The Story of Babar* (M)

“Of Elephants and Ducks,” Dorfman (M)

*The Jungle Book*

THURSDAY, NOV. 24: THANKSGIVING

Real Girls and Boys

Week 11
Thursday, Dec. 1:  
*Tom Sawyer*  
*Eight Cousins*  

Week 12
Thursday, Dec. 8:  
*Pollyanna*  
*Little Lord Fauntleroy*  

**FINAL PAPER DUE IN MY OFFICE BY NOON ON FRI., DEC. 16**