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 picture books, fairy tales, some works from the "golden age" of children’s stories, and some contemporary works, including Disney. We will also examine such prominent children’s book illustrators as Howard Pyle and N.C. Wyeth. In addition, we will enrich our reading of the fictions with some scholarly articles. The course will examine how childhood has been defined, and the ways children have been taught and amused. The emphasis will be on children’s literature, including selected fairy tales, *Tom Sawyer, Little House on the Prairie, Chickadee, A Little Princess*, and *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.

REQUIRED TEXTS: The following texts will be available for purchase at Broad Street Books. Scholarly articles will be added to Moodle, indicated in the schedule below with an (M).

*Keywords for children’s Literature*, ed. Philip Nel and Lissa Paul  
*The Classic Fairy Tales*, ed. Maria Tatar, second edition  
*Tom Sawyer*, Mark Sawyer, Norton Critical Edition  
*Little House on the Prairie*, Laura Ingalls Wilder  
*Chickadee*, Louise Erdrich  
*Little Princess*, Frances Hodgson Burnett  
*The Watsons Go to Birmingham*, Christopher Curtis  
*Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone*, J.K. Rowling

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Two essays of 3-4 pages in length, one of 4-5 pages. The first is due the first day of classes, the others as indicated on the schedule below. Some in-class writing and quizzes. One class presentation. Engaged class participation and faithful attendance: more than three unexcused absences will lower the class grade.

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS
All readings listed on the schedule should be completed by the class date indicated.

Mon., Jan. 8: Introduction, definition of terms, and the fairy tale  
   Essay # 1 due in class, 3-4 pages
From *The Classic Fairy Tales*, please read all introductions to the sections indicated:

“Little Red Riding Hood”
“Sleeping Beauty”
Warner, “To Spin a Yarn”
Haase, “Yours, Mine, or Ours?”
Tatar, “Sex and Violence”

Tues., Jan. 9: **sign up for class presentations** (directions on Moodle)
from *The Classic Fairy Tales*:
“Snow White”
Gilbert and Gubar, “Snow White”
Zipes, “Setting Standards for Civilization Through Fairy Tales” (M)

Hans Christian Andersen
Zipes, “Hans Christian Andersen and the Discourse of the Dominated” (M)

“Puss in Boots” (M)

Wed., Jan. 10: Picture Books and Children’s Book Illustrators—in-class discussion

Thurs., Jan. 11: **Tom Sawyer**
Rotundo, “Boy Culture”
Fetterley, “The Sanctioned Rebel”
Revard, “Why Mark Twain Murdered Injun Joe”

Fri., Jan. 12: **Little House on the Prairie**
*Chickadee*
“The Tribe Called Wannabee” (M)
**recommended:** take a look at the beginning of Rowlandson, *Captivity and Restoration*: [http://www.gutenberg.org/files/851/851-h.htm](http://www.gutenberg.org/files/851/851-h.htm)

Mon., Jan. 15: **Essay # 2 due in class, 3-4 pages**
Minority Absence in Children’s Literature
*The Watsons Go to Birmingham*

Tues., Jan. 16: **A Little Princess**
“A Visit from St. Nicholas” (M)
“Children as Consumers” (M)

Wed., Jan. 17: **Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone**
from *The Late Age of Print* (M)

Thurs., Jan. 18: Film and TV for children:
Sesame Street and Beyond—in class discussion
Fri., Jan. 19: Disney, *The Lady and the Tramp*  
Zipes, “Breaking the Disney Spell” (M)

Mon., Jan 22: Reading Period

Tues., Jan 23: **Final Essay due, 4-5 pages**

Wesleyan University is committed to ensuring that all qualified students with disabilities are afforded an equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from its programs and services. To receive accommodations, a student must have a documented disability as defined by Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the ADA Amendments Act of 2008, and provide documentation of the disability. Since accommodations may require early planning and generally are not provided retroactively, please contact Disability Resources as soon as possible.

If you believe that you need accommodations for a disability, please contact Dean Patey in Disability Resources, located in North College, Room 021, or call 860-685-2332 for an appointment to discuss your needs and the process for requesting accommodations.