

**Instructor:** Amalia Jiva

**Course:** VR 241

Comparative Literature - Fairy Tales

**Semester:** Summer 2015

**Office:** 406 JI Building

**Office Hours:** M/W TBA

**TA:** TBA

**TA Office Hours:**

## **Fairy Tales**

### **Course Description:**

In this course, we will examine classic fairy tales, their relationship to literature, as well as their contemporary presence and relevance. The course relies on close-reading and critical analysis, as well as on theoretical and interdisciplinary approaches to narrative. Represented in the course are both collected and adapted folk tales, such as those of Brothers Grimm and Charles Perrault, as well as authored fairy tales, such as those of Hans Christian Andersen's. In addition, we will consider modern versions of folk tales in order to observe their changing form and continued cultural impact.

### **Course Goals:**

- Introduce students to the form of the fairy tale through close reading of received, retold, and authored versions of the tales.
- Familiarize students with major critical approaches to the study of fairy tales from multiple disciplinary perspectives
- Provide students with the opportunity to reflect critically on the social impact of the genre
- Enhance students' critical reading, analyzing, creative, and writing skills.



Coussens, Penrhyn W. *A Child's Book of Stories*. Jessie Willcox Smith, illustrator. New York: Duffield and Company, 1911 (from SurLaLune)

## Course Outcomes:

After completing VR241, students should be able to:

- Understand and describe the form of the fairy tale
- Identify and analyze the changes in the genre from tradition to modern versions.
- Distinguish characteristics of traditional and literary fairy tales
- Identify and describe recurring fairy tales motifs and themes
- Critically reflect on and evaluate the cultural presence and impact of traditional and modern fairy tales using frameworks from multiple disciplines.
- Expand critical thinking and writing skills and articulate original arguments in response to literature

## Selected Course Materials: Excerpts Provided by Instructor

Bettelheim, Bruno. *The Uses of Enchantment: The Importance and Meaning of Fairy Tales*.

Tatar, Maria, ed. *The Classic Fairy Tales*. Norton Critical Edition.

Cashdan, Sheldon. *The Witch Must Die: How Fairy Tales Shape Our Lives*

Jack Zipes. *When Dreams Came True: Classical Fairy Tales and Their Tradition*.

Vladimir Propp. *The Morphology of the Folktale*.

Jack Zipes. *Fairy Tales and the Art of Subversion*

Max Luthi. *Once Upon a Time: On the Nature of Fairy Tales*.

Charles Perrault, *Complete Fairy Tales*

The Grimm Brothers. *The Complete Grimm's Fairy Tales*.

Hans Christian Andersen. *The Complete Fairy Tales*

## Assignments and Values:

Reading Quizzes	10%	<b>Final Average and Course Grade</b>	
Exam I	15%	98% and above A+	93% and above A
Exam II	15%	90% and above A-	87% and above B+
		83% and above B	80% and above B-
Exam III	20%	77% and above C+	70% and above C-
		60% and above D	59.9% and below F
In-class Presentations	30%		
Participation	10%		

Course Schedule		
Week 1	Introduction to Course	Introduction to the genre
Week 2	The Frog King	Molly Whuppie
Week 3	Little Red Riding Hood	<i>Little Red Riding Hood</i>
Week 4	<i>Cinderella</i>	<i>Cinderella</i>
Week 5	Exam Review	<b>Exam 1</b>
Week 6	<i>Snow White</i>	<i>Snow White</i>
Week 7	<i>Sleeping Beauty</i>	<i>Beauty and the Beast</i>
Week 8	<i>Bluebeard</i>	<i>Hansel and Gretel</i>
Week 9	<i>Exam Review</i>	<b>Exam 2</b>
Week 10	<i>Ugly Duckling/Little Match Girl</i>	<i>Red Shoes</i>
Week 11	<i>Little Mermaid</i>	<i>The Snow Queen</i>
Week 12	The Snow Queen	Exam Review
Week 13	<b>Final Exam</b>	

## **Course Policies and Expectations**

**Homework:** if assigned homework, please submit an electronic version on Sakai prior to the beginning of the class.

**Paper Format:** Use MLA style. Please always double-space and use 12 point Times New Roman font.

**Readings:** you are responsible for completing the readings in advance of each class and being prepared for discussion. Take notes on the secondary readings, as they will serve as background for our readings of fairy tales, and will factor into the exam questions. Come to class with observations and questions.

**Participation** (discussion, responses, homework, short presentations)

Attendance is not the same as participation. As you may know, any class relies on the active participation and contribution of students. You are expected to contribute to class discussion, attend class regularly, do the weekly readings, bring at-home responses to class, and be able to engage critically with the texts we will analyze.

**Expectations:** in general, students are expected to attend classes and participate, be polite, help classmates when needed, manage their schedule, speak English during class time and office hours with instructor and TAs, avoid plagiarism. Students must turn off electronic devices in class and concentrate on the lecture/discussion. Laptops may only be allowed in class as long as they are being used for educational purposes, such as note-taking. The instructor reserves the right to ban laptops in the classroom if this policy is violated. Policies regarding electronics for tests, quizzes, or other in-class assignments will be announced on a case-by-case basis.

**Attendance:** Attendance is required. Failure to attend class will affect your grade. Students who miss over 1/3 of classes cannot pass.

To quote JI policy on leave/missed classes:

- a) "An advance request for leave of absence is required if the student cannot attend the class due to illness or other reasons. Absence without approval will be regarded as skipping classes."
- b) "A note that a student visited a medical facility is not sufficient excuse for missing an assignment or an exam. The note must specifically indicate that the student was incapable of completing an assignment or taking an exam due to medical problems and that this condition was sudden enough that it was impractical to contact the instructor in advance."
- c) Students will receive a zero for any in-class work or quizzes they miss due to unexcused absences. **Please note** that even with an excused absence, you are still required to hand in any work that was assigned in that class on time. In other words, if you have an approved leave of absence on Monday, you are responsible for handing in any homework that was assigned that day, and must hand it in at the same time as other students.

## **Honor Code**

You **MUST** refer to the 2013 JI Undergraduate Student Handbook, Section 9, for a description of what acceptable academic conduct is. Section 9 of the Handbook contains the Honor Code. In particular for this course,

- “it is dishonorable for students to receive credit for work that is not the result of their own efforts” (2013 USH, 19).
- “It is a violation of the Honor Code for students to submit, as their own, work that is not the result of their own labor and thoughts. This applies, in particular, to ideas, expressions or work obtained from other students as well as from books, the internet, and other sources. The failure to properly credit ideas, expressions or work from others is considered plagiarism. Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously at JI. A student is required to follow the rules of citation and attribution as set down by the instructor.” (2013 USH, 20).
- “Plagiarism is taken extremely seriously at JI. A student is required to follow the rules of citation and attribution as set down by the instructor. The following list includes some specific examples of plagiarism:
  - Use of any passage of three words or longer from another source without proper attribution. Use of any phrase of three words or more must be enclosed in quotation marks (“example, example, example”).
  - Use of material from an uncredited source, making very minor changes (like word order or verb tense) to avoid the three-word rule.
  - Inclusion of facts, data, ideas or theories originally thought of by someone else, without giving that person (organization, etc.) credit.
  - Paraphrasing of ideas or theories without crediting the original thinker,” (2013 USH, 21).
- Please read carefully the following document:  
<http://umji.sjtu.edu.cn/academics/student-handbook/> >  
<http://umji.sjtu.edu.cn/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/2013-Undergraduate-Student-Handbook.pdf>