

## **ENGL 468A**      *Children's Literature (3 credits)*

Instructor: Dr. Suzanne James  
Section 99A **On-line**  
September-December 2013

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This course provides an introduction to the scholarly study of literature written for children.

The precursors of and influences on what we now consider children's literature are numerous and date back centuries, ranging from scholastic dialogues, to hymnals and primers, to transcriptions from oral traditions of folklore, myth, legend and romance. From John Newbery's 18th century publishing revolution through to the Harry Potter phenomenon and beyond, children's literature has been the focus of both fascination and controversy, and in recent decades it has increasingly earned academic attention. In this course, we will study a broad selection of texts produced over the last 150 years. We will approach them as cultural and literary productions, exploring their (sometimes) evolving generic features and audience assumptions, in terms of age, gender, content, and perceived boundaries. Students will be introduced to relevant theoretical material and encouraged to develop independent critical responses to the texts. Participation in online discussions as well as group activities is an integral component of this course.

English 468A is relevant to students enrolled in the English major and honours programmes, as well as prospective students of librarianship and education. It is also relevant as an elective for senior students in other programmes and faculties.

Students must have completed 6 units of second year English courses or the equivalent, and have achieved third-year standing to enroll in this course.

Students are not required to have any previous experience with the study of children's literature.

Although the course material is relevant to potential (or current) teachers, librarians and parents, the focus will be on the literary study of texts.

### **Text List:**

- *Folk & Fairy Tales* (Broadview 4th ed.)
- Robert Louis Stevenson, *Treasure Island*
- Lucy Maud Montgomery, *Anne of Green Gables*
- Lewis Carroll, *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (Broadview 2<sup>nd</sup> edition)
- J. R. R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit*
- Salman Rushdie, *Haroun and the Sea of Stories*
- Mariko Tamaki and Jillian Tamaki, *Skim*
- Nancy Garden, *Annie on My Mind*
- Deborah Ellis, *Parvana's Journey*
- Custom Course Package including critical/theoretical readings

**\* Please note: Except for *Folk & Fairy Tales* and *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, you may use any edition of these books. *Treasure Island* can be accessed for free as an ebook.**

## **Course Requirements:**

- Critical response #1 – 15%
- Critical response #2 – 15%
- Term paper proposal & tentative bibliography – 5%
- Term paper – 30%
- Participation (online journal and discussion forums) – 10%
- Final examination – 25%