

SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL FORM

1. Calendar Information

Department English

Abbreviation Code: ENGL Course Number: 367 Credit Hours: 4 Vector: 2-2-0

Title of Course: Studies in Children's Literature

Calendar Description of Course: ^{→ within the context of literary criticism} (An intensive study of selected works of children's literature from various periods. ~~One object of the course will be to~~ consider whether principles of interpretation and evaluation differ for children's and "adult" literature. *?*)

Nature of Course Lecture/Seminar

Prerequisites (or special instructions):

Any two of ENGL 101, 102, 103; and any one of ENGL 204, 205, 206

What course (courses), if any, is being dropped from the calendar if this course is approved: none

2. Scheduling

How frequently will the course be offered? at least once every 4 semesters

Semester in which the course will first be offered? 81-1

Which of your present faculty would be available to make the proposed offering possible? Curtis, Harris, Steig

3. Objectives of the Course (see attached sheet)

4. Budgetary and Space Requirements (for information only)

What additional resources will be required in the following areas: none

- Faculty
- Staff
- Library
- Audio Visual
- Space
- Equipment

- how are the two different? ?

5. Approval

Date: 29 Oct 79 80/1/23

P. Antekman
Department Chairman

RC Brown
Dean

Chairman, SCUS

SCUS 73-34b:- (When completing this form, for instructions see Memorandum SCUS 73-34a. Attach course outline).

Proposal for English 367: Studies in Children's Literature.

Nature and objectives of the course:

First, a brief history of the teaching of children's literature in the English Department: In 76-1, a Special Studies course in children's literature was given jointly by Professor Steig and Visiting Professor Bleich. Student demand for the course was very heavy, and the drop-rate was low. Subsequently, the Department proposed a new course, English 363, Varieties of Fantasy, which, it was understood, would sometimes be taught as a children's literature course, concentrating on fantasy for children. Since its approval, English 363 has been offered alternately as Science-Fiction and as Children's Literature. There has been a consistently high enrollment and continuing demand for both courses, which has created something of a problem, in that there has been little opportunity to offer 363 with a different content, such as adult fantasy or the gothic novel.

Children's literature has in the past decade become an extremely active and lively subdivision of literary study in English departments throughout North America. The annual journal, Children's Literature, enters its eighth year with a new publisher, Yale University Press, and several other journals have recently begun publication--journals concerned with children's literature as a field of study within the discipline of English literature, rather than to the use of children's literature in the elementary or secondary school classroom. UBC has courses in children's literature in the faculty of education, the English department, and the graduate School of Librarianship.

The children's literature courses taught thus far under the rubrics of Special Studies or Varieties of Fantasy in our English department have made rigorous demands on students. The "response" approach described in the attached course description for 80-1 has generally been used, but there is no requirement that such an approach always be used in this course; the only requirement is that children's literature be treated seriously and as of value in itself. The English department's approach will always be significantly different from that of Education 465, which is directed towards the use of children's literature in the elementary or secondary classroom; indeed, the courses should, for students going into teaching, complement one another.

The creation of English 367 will acknowledge and regularize an already existing situation: that the demand for a course in children's literature is heavy, and that it must be given frequently. It will reduce the pressure on English 363, so that a number of interested faculty members may offer that course with a different content than either science-fiction or children's literature. And it will make our offerings more nearly equivalent to those of a large number of English departments in North America.