

EDUCATION 465-4  
CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

INTERSESSION, 1985

INSTRUCTOR: Lissa Paul

Mondays and Wednesdays,  
1:00 - 4:50

LOCATION: MPX 8651/52

OBJECTIVES

This course centres on what children's literature is and on how to talk about it: that is, on children's literature as literature--how to explore it and how to share it.

OUTLINE OF TOPICS

The emphasis is on reading a wide variety of primary material, a lot of stories. Literary, psychological, historical and sociological contexts will frame the texts and provide backgrounds for talking about stories with children. The aim is to make reading an organic experience--to connect literature with life.

The course proceeds both chronologically and cross-culturally. Discussions are on genre, structure and literary conventions. These are skills that make naive readers into experienced readers.

This is a course about sharing children's literature, about understanding that it is not just a subject to be taught, but something much closer to an exploration of what it is to be human.

TYPICAL REQUIREMENTS

The reading of a wide range of children's literature. Selected literary and psychological critical material is also to be read.

The first few classes will be run as participatory lectures. But as the course progresses we will shift increasingly to seminars and discussion groups.

At the end of most classes a short assignment will be handed out to be completed for the following class (they provide practical applications to the class discussions). They are "hands-on" assignments, designed to put theory into practice. Six of these assignments are to be written up as short papers (each about two pages long).

One major seminar will be required. This is an oral presentation of a project you have worked on involving children and stories.

One major paper (10-12 pages) is due at the end of the course.

Grade breakdown:

6 written assignments (2 pages each)	25%
Oral presentation	25%
Major paper (10-12 pages)	50%

REQUIRED READING FOR THE FIRST CLASS:

Neil Postman The Disappearance of Childhood.  
Eugene Ionesco Story Number 1.