

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

S.80-68

MEMORANDUM

To..... SENATE

From..... SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Subject..... NEW COURSE PROPOSAL - ENGL 367-4 - DESCRIPTION CHANGE -- ENGL 363-4

Date..... MAY 20, 1980

Action taken by the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies at its meeting of May 20, 1980 gives rise to the following motion:

MOTION: "That Senate approve and recommend approval to the Board, as set forth in S. 80-68, the proposed new course, ENGL 367-4 - Studies in Children's Literature."

For information: Under its delegated authority, SCUS approve the change to the course description of ENGL 363-4 - Varieties of Fantasy.

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

## MEMORANDUM

To..... H.M. Evans, Secretary

S.C.U.S.

From..... Marvin Wideen, Director  
Undergraduate Programs  
Faculty of Education

Subject..... Engl. 367-4 Studies in  
Children's Literature

Date..... April 28, 1980

This is in response to your memorandum of April 3 requesting that the position of the Faculty of Education be clarified with regard to Engl. 367-4.

You will recall that my main concern regarding the course Engl. 367-4 was that its calendar description was not distinct from Educ. 465-4 "Children's Literature". During a meeting between members of the Faculty of Education and the English Department, the two courses were discussed at length and it was agreed that English would revise their calendar description. It was also agreed that the Faculty of Education would review the calendar description for Educ. 465-4 with a view to possible changes.

Since that meeting, I have received a revised copy of this course proposal from Dr. Roberts. The Faculty of Education is fully supportive of the course description described therein.

*MWideen*  
MFW:kg

RECEIVED

MAY 2 1980

REGISTRAR'S OFFICE  
MAIL DESK

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

## MEMORANDUM

*W. Roberts / S. Roberts*

To.....	H.M. Evans.....	From.....	Wyn Roberts.....
	Secretary SCUS.....		Chairman, F.A.C.C.....
Subject.....	English 363-4.....	Date.....	March 26, 1980.....
	Changes to course description		

In compliance with instructions from the Senate Committee on Undergraduate Studies I convened a meeting with representatives from the Department of English and the Faculty of Education. It was attended by: -

W. Roberts	S. O'Connell
A. Lebowitz	M. Zola
M. Steig	S. Roberts
M. Wideen	

After comparing the Children's Literature course offered by Education with the course proposed by English it was agreed that the approaches to the subject differed sufficiently that the courses were complementary rather than overlapping. However, it was felt that the course description for ENGL. 363-4 should be rewritten to emphasize the specificity of the departments' approach to the subject. It was also noted that the course description of ENGL. 367-4 should be changed. These changes have been made, and the revised course descriptions are attached.

cc. - A. Lebowitz  
M. Steig  
M. Wideen  
S. O'Connell  
M. Zola

SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL FORM

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: An intensive study of selections of children's literature from different periods. The works will be considered in relation to adult literature in English and to Literary theory. The problem of whether children's literature requires the same interpretive and evaluative approaches as adult literature will be investigated.

Nature of Course Lecture/Seminar

Prerequisites (or special instructions):

As for all U.D. English courses. Credit or standing in any two of Eng. 101, 102, 103 and in any one of Eng. 204, 205 and 206. *Students with credit for ENGL 367-4 when offered previous to 1980-3 as Children's Literature may not take this course for further credit*  
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? J. Curtis, M. Harris, M. Steis

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:

Faculty

Staff

Library

Audio Visual

Space

Equipment

none

5. Approval

Date: 5 March 1980

MAY 20 '80

Peel Antikins  
Department Chairman

RC Brown  
Dean

Jan R Birch  
Chairman, SCUS

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

Proposal for English ~~363~~: 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 Staig 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~~ <sup>(as ENGL 363)</sup> 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.

## English 363

Spring 1980

Lectures: M. Steig  
 Seminars: M. Harris  
 M. Steig

Varieties of Fantasy: Children's Literature

Children's literature has been referred to as "the great excluded" -- that is, an important branch of literature which is not normally taken seriously. We shall be taking it seriously. The reading list is set up roughly in terms of age-levels and historical chronology, though these conflict at some points.

Whereas the reading may seem "easy," the work will be hard, because we are asking for full participation in an ongoing experiment: the examination of response as a primary factor in reading and interpretation. David Bleich's book will provide a convenient -- though not prescriptive -- introduction to the theory and practice of subjective criticism. Lectures will deal with questions of genre, historical considerations, the relation of children's literature to "adult" literature, and with method. The seminars will be the main arenas for the sharing and the discussing of responses -- see Course Requirements, below.

Required Texts:

David Bleich	<u>Readings and Feelings</u>	NCTE
Munro Leaf	<u>The Story of Ferdinand</u>	Penguin-Puffin
William Steig	<u>The Amazing Bone</u>	Penguin-Puffin
Andrew Lang	<u>The Blue Fairy Book</u>	Airmont
George MacDonald	<u>The Light Princess</u>	Dell
Lewis Carroll	<u>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and Through the Looking-Glass</u>	Penguin-Puffin
Kenneth Grahame	<u>The Wind in the Willows</u>	Signet
E. B. White	<u>Charlotte's Web</u>	Harper & Row
Mordecai Richler	<u>Jacob Two-Two Meets the Hooded Fang</u>	Bantam
C. S. Lewis	<u>The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe</u>	Penguin
Ursula LeGuin	<u>A Wizard of Earthsea</u>	Penguin
Louise Fitzhugh	<u>Harriet the Spy</u>	Dell
Lloyd Alexander	<u>The Book of Three</u>	Dell
Alan Garner	<u>The Owl Service</u>	Collins

Spring 1980

Lectures: M. Steig  
Seminars: H. Harris  
M. Steig

Course Requirements:

Two papers, one medium-length, due in the fifth week of classes, and one longer, due at the beginning of the final week of classes. The first of these will deal with response, but the second may be a more conventional critical or "research" paper if you prefer. In addition, you will be required to write a 300-600 word response paper for every other seminar (approximately) after the first; some of these will be duplicated and distributed for discussion, and the seminar leader will distribute his own response paper at the same time; total: 4 or 5 short response papers. These will not be graded individually, but note will be taken of failure to hand in response papers. On those days when response papers are not due, you will still be expected to have prepared detailed notes on your response to the work under discussion. The success of the course will depend upon students' and seminar leaders' willingness to participate fully and candidly in discussions.

No final examination.

*Note: No smoking will be permitted in lectures or seminars.  
Seminars will be held in the first week of classes.*

SENATE COMMITTEE ON UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

NEW COURSE PROPOSAL FORM

CHANGE OF DESCRIPTION ONLY

1. Calendar Information

Department English

Abbreviation Code: ENGL Course Number: 363 Credit Hours: 4 Vector: 2-2-0

Title of Course: VARIETIES OF FANTASY

Calendar Description of Course: Studies in various types of fantasy literature. The course will normally concentrate on one or more of the following: the Gothic novel and its descendants, modern fantasy novels, utopian and antiutopian science-fiction.

Nature of Course

Prerequisites (or special instructions):

What course (courses), if any, is being dropped from the calendar if this course is approved:

2. Scheduling

How frequently will the course be offered?

Semester in which the course will first be offered?

Which of your present faculty would be available to make the proposed offering possible?

3. Objectives of the Course

4. Budgetary and Space Requirements (for information only)

What additional resources will be required in the following areas:

Faculty

Staff

Library

Audio Visual

Space

Equipment

5. Approval

Date: 5 March 1980

MAY 20 '80

Peter Butcher  
Department Chairman

Robert  
Dean

David R. Birch  
Chairman, SCUS

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



## SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

SCUS 80-20

## MEMORANDUM

o. Dr. M. Wideen, Chairman, Faculty of  
Education Undergraduate Curriculum Cmmttee.  
ENG. 363-4 Varieties of Fantasy  
Subject... ENG. 367-4 Studies in Children's Lit.  
~~EDUC 465-4 Children's literature~~

From H. M. Evans, Secretary,  
SCUS  
Date April 3, 1980

*Change in Description - ENGL 363-4  
New Course - ENGL 367-4.*

Further to our recent telephone conversation, I understand that you have received a copy of the communication from Wy Roberts, Chairman, FACC, dated March 26, concerning ENG. 363-4 and ENG. 367-4.

Before moving the Faculty of Arts submission forward to SCUS, I would appreciate receiving a memorandum indicating clearly the position of the Faculty of Education relative to the courses in order that SCUS may deal appropriately with the request from Arts.

HME/lm