

COURSE DESCRIPTION

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Summer 2009

EDUC 465

Children's Literature

Elizabeth Marshall

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PREREQUISITE: 60 credit hours

DESCRIPTION

This course offers a critical introduction to literature and other cultural texts produced for children, including fairy tales, picture books, contemporary fictions, and film. Course readings include materials produced for children (kindergarten through middle-school) as well as current research and theory about children's literature and culture.

OBJECTIVES

This course draws on and introduces a range of theoretical perspectives that allow readers to ask questions about literary elements, cultural productions, representations of social categories such as gender and ethnicity, and to examine how these constructions of children and difference are tied to larger social and political contexts. Students will:

- Read a variety of titles and genres to become familiar with the range of materials available for children
- Use a variety of theories to analyze literary elements and to critically examine representations of race/ethnicity, class, gender and sexuality
- Read contemporary scholarship on children's literature
- Identify authors of landmark and contemporary texts and use professional resources to select and evaluate children's literature
- Research children's responses to literature

REQUIREMENTS

The course includes: individual study, daily assignments, research, small group and whole-class discussion, a mid-term and a final exam.

Course Requirements comprise the following:

Quizzes:	20%
Participation/Seminar Discussion:	30%
Mid-Term:	20%
Final:	30%

REQUIRED READINGS

Ellis, D. (2004). *The breadwinner*. Toronto: Greenwood books. 0-88899-416-8.

Gaiman, N. (2008). *The graveyard book*. New York: HarperCollins. 978-0-06-053092.

Montgomery, L.M. *Anne of Green Gables*. Norton Critical Edition.
New York: W. W. Norton & Company. 978-0-393-92695-8.

Nodelman, P. & Reimer, M. (2003). *The pleasures of children's Literature* (3rd Ed.). Toronto: Allyn & Bacon. 0-8013-3248-6.

Snicket, L. (2007). *The bad beginning*. New York: HarperCollins. 978-0061146305.

Tatar, M. (2002). *The annotated classic fairy tales*. New York: W. W. Norton. 0-393-05163-3.