

## Department of English and Cultural Studies English 2033E: Children's Literature

Course outline for 2020/2021



Although this academic year might be different, Huron and Western University are committed to a **thriving campus**. We encourage you to check out the [Digital Student Experience](#) website to manage your academics and well-being. Additionally, the following link provides available resources to support students on and off campus: <https://www.uwo.ca/health/>.

### 1. Technical Requirements Suggested:



Stable internet connection



Laptop or computer



Working microphone



Working webcam

**Students can call into Collaborate and Zoom sessions if they are experiencing technical difficulties.**

### 2. Course Overview and Important Dates:



Delivery Mode	Dates	Time
While class material will be online, please be available for class discussion on Collaborate on Wednesdays.	W. Class Collaborate/ Zoom lecture and discussions/ group work	3:30-5:30PM

\*Details about design and delivery of the course are listed below in Section 4

Classes Start	Reading Weeks	Classes End	Study day(s)	Exam Period
September 9	November 2 - 8	December 9	December 10	December 11 - 22
January 11	February 13 - 21	April 12	April 13	April 14 - 30

\*November 30, 2020: Last day to drop a full course and full-year half course without penalty

### 3. Contact Information



Course Instructor	Contact Information
Dr. Michelle Hartley	<a href="mailto:mhartley@uwo.ca">mhartley@uwo.ca</a> Zoom office hours address found below

**Sign into the Read Me First file on OWL for more information!**

4. **Course Description** – from the Academic Calendar: Readings from significant books written for children, selected primarily for literary quality. Some attention will be given to the historic evolution of "Children's Literature" as a separate class, but the principal aim of the course will be to consider the nature and development of the two major genres: nonsense verse and romance.

**Antirequisite(s):** [English 2730F/G](#) (King's).

**Instructor Description:**

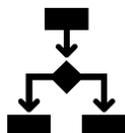
**English 2033E explores forms of and approaches to literature for children and young adults. A core of required texts by nineteenth- and early twentieth-century authors of significance to the historical development of children's literature will be supplemented by more contemporary classics and popular writings. Works may be considered from historical, cultural, generic, multicultural and/or theoretical perspectives. Attention will also be given to Canadian children's literature.**

**Course Delivery:**

Students need to read the primary material listed in the timetable each week in time for the delivery of asynchronous lecture/assignment material on Mondays and the synchronous lectures/class and group discussions on Wednesdays that will be held on OWL via Zoom and Collaborate. Students should read ahead during weeks with light reading (picture books, etc.) as some novels like *Treasure Island* and *Anne of Green Gables* tend to take far more time.

Mode	Dates	Time	Frequency
Online synchronous	Wednesdays	3:30-5:30	weekly
Virtual asynchronous	N/A	At least 5-6 hours	weekly

- Asynchronous pre-work should be completed prior to synchronous sessions. Reading the course texts, novels, picture books, and shorter works is vital to participation and knowledge of the course material. We will be discussing and analyzing the texts assuming that you have read the material so that story synopsis will not be given.
- Participation and engagement at synchronous sessions is recommended.
- Missed work should be completed within 48 hours. Missed lectures can be reviewed, then answer questions on the forums. Forum discussion should demonstrate good knowledge of the texts and include pertinent quotations as evidence.
- A recording or powerpoint/word file lecture notes will be provided for synchronous sessions, but this does not take the place of participation.



All course material will be posted to OWL: <http://owl.uwo.ca>. Any changes to the syllabus will be indicated on the OWL site and announced to the class. Please ensure that you are forwarding announcements from OWL to your regular email. I will frequently update the class and send reminders using this method.

If students need assistance, they can seek support on the [OWL Help page](#). Alternatively, they can contact the King's IT or [Western Technology Services Helpdesk](#). They can be contacted by phone at 519-661-3800 or ext. 83800.

[Google Chrome](#) or [Mozilla Firefox](#) are the preferred browsers to optimally use OWL; update your browsers frequently. Students interested in evaluating their internet speed, please click [here](#).

## 5. Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:



- place individual texts in their context within the historical development of children's literature
- recognize and understand the features of genres such as the fairy tale, nonsense, adventure, gothic fiction, and fantasy
- display a knowledge of several classic children's novels, as well as more recent contributions to the genre
- use and understand terms common to the genre
- analyze texts employing the skills of literary analysis, considering features such as narrative technique, symbolism, rhyme and rhythm, layout and illustrations, etc.
- understand some of the political and philosophical underpinnings of the books on the course
- communicate ideas effectively in writing (through discussion, presentation and persuasive essays)
- develop a specific, focused argument and support it with textual evidence from both primary and secondary sources

## 6. How to Be Successful in this Class:

Students enrolled in this class should understand the level of autonomy and self-discipline required to be successful.



1. Invest in a planner or application to keep track of your courses. Children's literature is fun to read, but there is a lot of reading. Falling behind will put more pressure on you, so try to stay on top of course readings.
2. Make it a daily habit to log onto OWL to ensure you have seen everything posted to help you succeed in this class. Be sure to check announcements. Be sure to post to forums before the end of the week. The forums are for the class, not just the individual, so late posts will only receive partial marks.
3. Take notes as you go through the lesson material. Treat this course as you would a face-to-face course. Keeping handwritten notes or even notes on a regular Word document will help you learn more effectively than just reading or watching the videos.
4. Connect with others. Try forming an online study group and try meeting on a weekly basis for study and peer support.
5. Do not be afraid to ask questions. If you are struggling with a topic, check the online discussion boards or contact me. That's what my office hours are for!

## 7. Online Participation and Engagement



- Students are expected to participate and engage with content as much as possible
- Students can participate during live sessions or post on the OWL forums after watching the recording

## 8. Course Content and Schedule \* (check each Week for the primary readings listed on your lecture page)



Week	Dates	Topic – Tentative schedule there could be changes.
1	Sept 9	Introduction to the course and children's literature
2	Sept 16	Nursery Rhymes and Nonsense – <a href="#">Edward Lear</a>
3	Sept 23	Fairy Tales – see links on OWL page for Week 3
4	Sept 30	Fairy Tales cont'd – paper feedback session
5	Oct 7	MacDonald, <a href="#">"The Light Princess"</a>
6	Happy Thanksgiving Oct 14	No posting on the Monday Picture Book responses – <i>The Girl and the Wolf</i> and <i>Wolf in the Snow</i> – see <a href="#">bookstore.uwo.ca</a>
7	Oct 21	Carroll, <a href="#">"Alice's Adventures in Wonderland"</a>
8	Oct 28	Rushdie, <i>Haroun and the Sea of Stories</i> -- see <a href="#">bookstore.uwo.ca</a>
		Reading Week
9	Nov 11	Stevenson, <a href="#">"Treasure Island"</a>
10	Nov 18	Montgomery, <a href="#">"Anne of Green Gables"</a>
11	Nov 25	Burnett, <a href="#">"The Secret Garden"</a>
12	Dec 2	Barrie, <a href="#">"Peter Pan"</a>
13	Dec 9	Catch-up
<b>Second Term</b>		
14	Jan 13	Nesbit, <a href="#">"The Story of the Amulet"</a>
15	Jan 20	Woodson, <i>Harbor Me</i> -- <a href="#">bookstore.uwo.ca</a>
16	Jan 27	Research – YA
17	Feb 3	Pratchett, <i>Nation</i> -- <a href="#">bookstore.uwo.ca</a>
18	Feb 10	<i>Nation</i> cont'd
	Feb 17	Reading Week
19	Feb 24	Dimaline, <i>The Marrow Thieves</i> <a href="#">bookstore.uwo.ca</a>
20	Mar 3	Mid-term
21	Mar 10	Potter, <a href="#">"The Tale of Peter Rabbit"</a> and Seton, <a href="#">"Raggy-Lug"</a>
22	Mar 17	White, <i>Charlotte's Web</i> <a href="#">bookstore.uwo.ca</a>
23	Mar 24	Lewis, <i>The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe</i>
24	Mar 31	Browne, <i>Voices in the Park</i> <a href="#">bookstore.uwo.ca</a>
25	Apr 7	Gaiman, <i>Coraline</i> <a href="#">bookstore.uwo.ca</a>

## 9. Office Hours:



- Office hours will be held remotely using Zoom at the following address:  
<https://westernuniversity.zoom.us/j/3504723635?pwd=Q0tLc1BkOTc4U3I6YmRWSnlORTIxUT09>

I will send out an invite via OWL announcement/email in the first week. I will be available Mondays from 1:30-2:30 and Thursdays 9:30-11:30AM or by appointment.

- I will be happy to answer questions about the readings, the assignments, and course content in those hours. Schedule a more private session for personal issues.

## 10. Evaluation

Below is the evaluation breakdown for the course. Any deviations will be communicated.

Assignment	Value	Due Date	Length
Learning cell	10%	Sept. 30 <sup>th</sup>	750-1000 words
Passage analysis	5%*2 =10%	Analysis is due the week following the lecture.	250-300 words each
Film/Lit analysis	15%	December 9 <sup>th</sup>	1200 words
Mid-Term	15%	March 3 <sup>rd</sup>	
Annotated Bibliography	10%	March 10 <sup>th</sup>	
Research Essay	25%	March 31 <sup>st</sup>	2000 words
Participation	15%	Weekly	



- All assignments are due at 11:55 pm EST unless otherwise specified
- Written assignments will be submitted to Turnitin (statement in policies below)
- Read assignment sheets carefully and submit any questions to the Forum
- After an assessment is returned, students should wait 24 hours to digest feedback before contacting me; to ensure a timely response, reach out within 7 days

The table below outlines the University-wide grade descriptors.

A+	90-100	One could scarcely expect better from a student at this level
A	80-89	Superior work which is clearly above average
B	70-79	Good work, meeting all requirements, and eminently satisfactory
C	60-69	Competent work, meeting requirements
D	50-59	Fair work, minimally acceptable
F	below 50	Fail

### Information about late or missed evaluations:

- Late assessments without illness self-reports will be subject to a late penalty 1%/day
- Late assessments with illness self-reports should be submitted within 24 hours of submission of the last illness self-report
- An assessment cannot be submitted after it has been returned to the class; an alternate assessment will be assigned OR the weight will be transferred to the final research paper depending upon circumstance. Shorter assignments are designed to prepare students for later assignments.

## 11. Communication:



- Students should check the OWL site every 24 – 48 hours
- I will provide regular updates on OWL via Announcements
- Students should email me for non-course related questions at [mhartley@uwo.ca](mailto:mhartley@uwo.ca)
- I will try to respond to email in 24 – 48 hours during the week
- This course will use the OWL forum for discussions
- Students should post all course-related content on the discussion forum so that everyone can access answers to questions
- The discussion forums will be monitored during the week, but my “participation” tends to take the form of prodding questions or silence, leaving the discussion up to the class. Post questions to the question forum. Students should finish posting to the forums before Wednesday’s class after which I will post new material each week.

## 12. Resources



- As a literature class, there are many required texts. I have linked to free online editions where possible as you will see in the underlined hyperlinks in the schedule above. Please buy the more recent texts as soon as possible via [bookstore.uwo.ca](http://bookstore.uwo.ca) or ascertain their availability at your local library. I will send out a list of texts unavailable online via OWL announcement. I have also ordered paperback copies into the campus bookstore for those who find they’re spending too much time online.
- While I will post writing resources on your MLA and Writing sites tab on OWL, buying a writing handbook with up to date MLA guidelines, etc. is advised. I like *The Little Seagull Handbook*.
- For the film and literature assignment you will have to find one of the required films online via Netflix, Youtube, etc. or get it on loan from your local library.

## 13. Professionalism & Privacy:



- Western students are expected to follow the [Student Code of Conduct](#). Additionally, the following expectations and professional conduct apply to this course:
- Students are expected to follow online etiquette expectations provided on OWL
  - All course materials created by the instructor(s) are copyrighted and cannot be sold/shared
  - Recordings are not permitted (audio or video) without explicit permission
  - Permitted recordings are not to be distributed
  - All recorded sessions will remain within the course site or unlisted if streamed, and I will warn the class before I begin recording.