

Course Outline: The Fairy Tale—From Grimm to Disney

DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES, LITERATURES AND LINGUISTICS

Course Code

AP/GER 1791 6.0 Y

Course Description

This class examines the genre of the fairy tale with special emphasis on tales collected by the Brothers Grimm. Some of these tales deal with subjects that might startle modern readers, such as sexual assault, incest, and graphic physical punishments. We will investigate how fairy tales have functioned as vehicles for exploring the human condition and rites of passage, for social and political critique, for instruction, education, and propaganda. We will discuss some of the most popular tale types, encounter lesser-known stories, and look at the many ways in which these tales have been adapted across time, across cultures, and in a wide range of media, including literature, live action and animated film, advertising, television, comics, and digital media. We will also examine the ways in which certain theoretical approaches can be applied to the analysis of the fairy tale.

Course Delivery

Section A, designated with the code “LECT,” consists of a weekly two-hour, in-person lecture plus a weekly 50-minute, in-person tutorial.

Section B, designated with the code “BLEN,” consists of online modules plus one weekly 50-minute, in-person tutorial. Online modules are delivered asynchronously, which means that although there are weekly deadlines, students can complete the work at times that are most convenient for them.

Course Materials

All readings be available through the course website. Films are available for streaming through the York Library website. Course materials include scholarly articles and a wide variety of texts that employ fairy tale structures and motifs: e.g., short stories, animated and live action film, TV series, comics, visual art, digital media, and advertising.

Tentative Grade Breakdown and Deadlines

Assessment	Weight	Mode	Tentative Deadline
Tutorial Contributions	15%	In-person	Weekly
Quizzes and Perusal Assignments	15%	Online/ Asynchronous	Weekly
Fall Project	10%	Take-home	Dec 8
Winter Project – Stage 1	15%	Take-home	Jan 29
Winter Project – Final Draft	20%	Take-home	Mar 26
Final Exam	25%	In-person	Final Exam Period
	100%		