UWRP 3020-016
Spring, 2005
Topics in Writing: Folk and Fairy Tales

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Course Description: In this class, you will be writing about the powers and purposes of folk and fairy tales—about what these tales do beyond providing a simple “moral of the story.” The focus of the class will be upon your writing, and upon communicating ideas, through writing, to an audience. You’ll be working on two essay projects—culminating in one analytical essay and one argumentative essay.

Required Texts: Bruno Bettelheim: The Uses of Enchantment.
Robert Darnton: The Great Cat Massacre.
A collection of folk/fairy tales of your own choosing.
—and, of course, your own written work.

Optional (but highly recommended) text: a good manual of form and grammar, which includes information on MLA citation form—the required citation form in this class. Suggestions: Diana Hacker, A Pocket Style Manual, 4th ed. (Bedford/St. Martin’s), or Cheryl Glenn et al., The Writer’s Harbrace Handbook, Brief Edition, 2nd ed. (Heinle).

Coursework: You will be writing several short assignments in this course—short analyses of folktales, as well as assessments of critical interpretations of tales. Also, you will be responsible for two full-length essays. These essays will be the last step in a process of writing and revising. When we are workshopping drafts, you will be submitting drafts of work in progress about every fourth class day. Although I will not be grading these preliminary drafts, they are necessary to class discussion and necessary to the process of your own writing. Therefore, it is imperative that you get your drafts in on time. I’ll be taking 5 points off your essay grade for each class day any draft, including the final draft, is late. You may change the thesis of your essay at any time, as long as we discuss the thesis of your final draft at least once in class.

Participation: Your written and spoken participation is as important as your attendance. Also, I will be considering preparation as an important component of participation. Please read and mark your colleagues’ drafts before you come to class, and be ready to comment on their papers. 10% of your grade depends upon your preparation and participation. To put it simply: if you prepare and participate regularly, you will get 10 points towards your final grade; if you don’t prepare or participate, you will get 0 points. If you foresee a problem with participation, please see me during the first week of classes; if you foresee a problem with preparation, you should reconsider taking this class.

Plagiarism: Your work must be original. If you plagiarize any work in any way, you will fail the course. Ignorance will not be an excuse.
Attendance: I'll allow three absences, but after that you will lose five points from your final grade for each subsequent absence. If you miss a class, find out from another student (or from me) what you missed; you'll be responsible for knowing what went on. Moreover, if you miss a class before a workshop day, please pick up and prepare the drafts for that next workshop. (Those drafts will be in my mailbox, at TB-1.) If you will be missing a class when you are due to pass a draft around, please call me or arrange to have someone bring your copies to class—otherwise, I will consider your draft late.

Come to class on time; if you are not on the roll, I will have to consider you absent.

Special Note on Disabilities: If you qualify for accommodations because of a disability please submit to me a letter from Disability Services in a timely manner so that your needs may be addressed. Disability Services determines accommodations based on documented disabilities (Willard 322, 303-492-8671, www.colorado.edu/disabilityservices).

Paper and Paragraph Format: All work—except most of the short assignments—must be typed and in MLA citation form. In your heading, please include your name, the course number, and my name. Also, please make 19 copies of any work that we will be discussing in workshop—one for every member of the class. If there is not a copy for everyone, I will consider your draft late. Photocopying is a textbook cost; I cannot accept shortage of cash as an excuse for a late draft.

Your analytical and argumentative essays should be as long as they need to be—but you should consider three full pages (900 words) as an absolute minimum length.

Grading: Analytical essay: 35%
Argumentative essay: 35%
Shorter Work: 20%
Participation: 10%
(Also remember that attendance can affect your grade.)

Tentative Schedule for the Course:

Week 1: Introduction; discussions: folk/fairy tales.
Week 2: Discussions: folk/fairy tales, Bettelheim's Introduction
Week 3: Discussions: Bettelheim, Analysis; Workshop: Analytical Thesis Paragraphs
Week 4: Workshops: Analytical Thesis Paragraphs
Week 5: Discussion of folk/fairy tales; Workshops: First Full Drafts
Week 6: Workshops: First Full Drafts; Discussion of folk/fairy tales
Week 7: Workshops: Second Drafts
Week 8: Workshops: Second Drafts
Week 9: Discussion: Darnton's "Peasants Tell Tales"; Discussion: Argument; Analytical Essay Due
Week 10: Workshops: Thesis paragraphs
Week 11: Workshops: Thesis paragraphs
Week 12: Small Groups: First Drafts
Week 13: Small Groups: First Drafts
Week 14: Workshops: Second Drafts
Week 15: Workshops: Second Drafts
Week 16: Argumentative Essay Due