COURSE DESCRIPTION

Although frequently relegated to the category of children’s literature, fables, fairytales, and folklore have been central to the art of storytelling and literary culture from antiquity to the present day. By reading “folk literature” across time and cultures, this course will investigate the crucial and complex role that such stories have played in education, morality, religion, political thought, and popular culture. We will interrogate the relationships between oral and written cultures, histories of translation and reception, connections between animals and humans, questions about gender and sexuality, and the idea of the supernatural.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

1. To consider how ideas, values, beliefs, and other aspects of culture express and affect human experience by examining the connections between literary works and their social, historical, and cultural contexts.
2. To use literature to explore ideas that foster aesthetic and intellectual creation in order to understand the human condition across cultures and nationalities.
3. To recognize the distinctive characteristics of relevant literary periods, genres, and writers.
4. To understand and use basic literary terms and concepts.
5. To develop analytic skills by close reading, class discussion, and writing.
6. To use writing as a tool for learning.
**STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Students who successfully complete ENGL 2332 will be able to demonstrate knowledge and skills in four Core Objectives defined by the Higher Education Coordinating Board of the State of Texas:

**CT1. Critical Thinking**
Generate and communicate ideas by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information.

**CS1. Communication Skills**
Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written communication.

**SR1. Social Responsibility**
Demonstrate intercultural competence.

**PR1. Personal Responsibility**
Connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision making.

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

To be purchased at the TAMUCC bookstore or another book vendor:

All additional readings will be available as PDFs on Blackboard. You are required to print these readings and bring them to class with you.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND ASSIGNMENTS**

**STORYTELLING ASSIGNMENTS (30%):** Throughout the course of the semester, you will complete three “storytelling assignments,” each of which is worth 10% of your final grade. These creative exercises will ask you to retell or reimagine one of the fables or tales we have read and pair your retelling with a reflective and analytical justification. When each assignment is due, I will ask for volunteers to present their storytelling projects. Each volunteer will be awarded extra credit toward the participation grade (see below).

**CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL FABLE PROJECT (15%):** For this project, you will write or otherwise create a fable based on a contemporary political issue. A successful fable will deploy several features and techniques we have seen throughout the semester in order to illustrate the problems and questions at the heart of the political or cultural issue of your choice. Your reader should be able to understand how you interpret the problem based on the way you present the characters and situations in your fable. As with the storytelling assignments, you will pair your fable with an analytical reflection and justification of your choices.
**Final Paper Project (20%)**: For your final paper, you will analyze a recurring topic or character, chart a fable over time or across cultures, or examine a specific adaptation of a fable. Each paper will be required to use close analysis to develop an argument that supported by textual evidence.

**Comprehensive Final Exam (20%)**: At the end of the semester, you will complete an exam that will test your knowledge of key terms and concepts from the course. The exam will consist of definitions, analytical short-answer questions, and an essay.

**Attendance and Class Participation (15%)**: Although this is a lecture course, our learning will be very interactive, so you will be expected to be present and fully engaged in each class session. You are allowed no more than two (2) absences before your grade is affected. If for some reason, you anticipate further absences due to circumstances beyond your control, it is imperative that you let me know immediately and communicate with me early and often. I expect your full participation in large and small discussions, in-class writing assignments, and other activities. If I see that you are distracted by your phone, disrupting your peers, or not paying attention in class, your participation grade will be lowered. Your grade will also be lowered if you arrive to class late or leave early habitually. There are also ways to enhance your participation grade. In addition to receiving extra participation credit for sharing one or more of your storytellings, you may also receive extra credit for sharing any FABULOUS! news. This means that if you come across anything related to fables, folklore, or fairy tales in the news or popular culture, you are strongly encouraged to share it with the class. Together, we will discover just how pervasive these traditions are in our culture.

**Course Policies**

**Deadlines**: Assignments are due on the deadlines listed on the syllabus. In fairness to everyone in this class, I cannot accept late work. **PAPERS ARE DUE AT THE START OF THE CLASS SESSION ON THEIR DUE DATE.** This means that you should upload your paper to the Blackboard dropbox before class AND hand a stapled hard copy of your paper to me as you enter the classroom. Any paper not turned in by the designated time will be considered late. If you are experiencing a problem or have an emergency, please notify me in advance of the deadline rather than waiting until the deadline has passed.

**Communication and Office Hours**: I encourage you to schedule an appointment with me during my office hours if you have questions or would like to discuss your writing and your progress in the course. If my office hours do not work for your schedule, please contact me to schedule an appointment at an alternate time. The best way to contact me outside of class and office hours is by e-mail. I will do my best to respond to your e-mail within 24 hours of receiving it, but I check my e-mail less frequently in the evenings and on the weekends. Any communication I send out to the entire class will be to your Islander e-mail address, so please check your university e-mail on a regular basis.
**Technology Policy:** The success of this course depends on your full attention to the materials and the conversations that develop around them, so you are not permitted to use laptops, tablets, and cell phones during this class. Please see me if you believe you have a reason for which you should be exempt from this policy.

**Paper Guidelines:** Papers should be double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font. Please do not use Cambria or Calibri font. You should have a consistent documentation style and should always site your sources; I will upload a guide to citing works and ideas using the MLA citation style on our class’s Blackboard site. If you have any questions about citations, or how to acknowledge ideas or language other than your own, please come visit me in office hours. We will also review citation practices before the first paper. I also strongly encourage you to come to discuss your papers before they are due. I do not read full drafts, but I would be delighted to set up a meeting to discuss your paper with you before it is due.

**Academic Integrity & Plagiarism**

University students are expected to conduct themselves in accordance with the highest standards of academic honesty. Academic misconduct for which a student is subject to penalty includes all forms of cheating, such as illicit possession of examinations or examination materials, falsification, forgery, complicity or plagiarism. Plagiarism is the presentation of the work of another as one’s own work. Please remember that any words or ideas that come from an outside source must be cited. We will discuss conventions for using and citing sources in academic papers. If you have further questions about proper citation, please see me. In this class, any academic misconduct or complicity in an act of academic misconduct on an assignment or test will result in failure of the course.

**Dropping a Class**

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. Please consult with me before you decide to drop to be sure it is the best thing to do. Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. November 6, 2015, is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of “W” this term.

**Classroom & Professional Behavior**

Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi has a diverse student population that represents the population of the state. Our goal is to provide you with a high quality educational experience that is free from repression. You are responsible for following the rules of the University, city, state and federal government. We expect that you will behave in a manner that is dignified, respectful and courteous to all people, regardless of sex, ethnic/racial origin, religious background, sexual orientation or disability. Behaviors that infringe on the rights of another individual will not be tolerated.
GRADE APPEALS

Students who feel that they have not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in this class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website, cla.tamucc.edu/students/studentinfo.html. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean.

DISABILITIES ACCOMMODATIONS

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116. If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

STATEMENT OF ACADEMIC CONTINUITY

In the event of an unforeseen adverse event, such as a major hurricane, that prevents classes from being held on the campus of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, this course would continue through the use of Blackboard and/or email. In addition, the syllabus and class activities may be modified to allow continuation of the course. Ideally, University facilities (i.e., emails, web sites, and Blackboard) will be operational within two days of the closing of the physical campus. However, students need to make certain that the course instructor has a primary and a secondary means of contacting each student.

ACADEMIC ADVISING

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.
COURSE CALENDAR

You should have completed the reading listed for each day before coming to class on that day. This schedule is subject to revision, with advance notice.

W 8/26  Once Upon a Time? Introduction to the Course
M 8/31  Fables in Antiquity: selections from *Aesop’s Fables*
W 9/2   Fables in Antiquity: selections from *Aesop’s Fables*
M 9/7   No Class – Labor Day Holiday
W 9/9   Fables in Antiquity: selections from *Panchatantra* [Bb]
        **Storytelling Assignment #1 Due**
M 9/14  Medieval Fables: selections from Marie de France’s *Ysopet* and Fox Fables [Bb]
W 9/16  Medieval Fables: selections from medieval bestiaries [Bb]
M 9/20  Renaissance Fables: selections from Robert Henryson and William Caxton [Bb]
W 9/22  Renaissance Fables: selections from John Ogilby and Jean de la Fontaine [Bb]
        **Storytelling Assignment #2 Due**
M 9/28  Fables and Modernity: George Orwell, *Animal Farm*, Chapters 1-3
W 9/30  Fables and Modernity: *Animal Farm*, Chapters 4-6
M 10/5  Fables and Modernity: *Animal Farm*, Chapters 6-8
W 10/7  Fables and Modernity: *Animal Farm*, Chapters 9-10
M 10/12 Contemporary Fable Project In-Class Workshop
W 10/14 **Contemporary Fable Project Due / In-Class Presentations**
M 10/19 *The Classic Fairy Tales*: Hansel and Gretel selections
W 10/21 *The Classic Fairy Tales*: Hansel and Gretel adaptations
M 10/26 *The Classic Fairy Tales*: Bluebeard selections
W 10/28 *The Classic Fairy Tales*: Bluebeard adaptations
M 11/2  *The Classic Fairy Tales*: Cinderella selections
W 11/4  *The Classic Fairy Tales*: Cinderella adaptations
        **Storytelling Assignment #3 Due**
M 11/9  Bill Willingham, *Fables: Legends in Exile*
W 11/11 *Fables: Legends in Exile* (continued)
M 11/16 Bill Willingham, *Fables: Animal Farm*
W 11/18 *Fables: Animal Farm* (continued)
M 11/23      Final Paper Project Workshop
W 11/25      Final Paper Project Workshop

M 11/30      Course Wrap-up and Exam Review; **Final Projects Due**

**FINAL EXAM:** Wednesday, December 9th, 2015 — 1:45PM-4:15PM

"Once upon a time, they lived happily ever after."