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Office Hours: Mon. 10-11 a.m.; Wed., 1-2 p.m. & by appt.



Sir John Tenniel's illustration of the Mad Hatter from Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*. Hatter's were known to suffer from "mental" ailments because of the use of mercury in the production of hats. The card in the hatband reads "In this style 10/6" (10 shillings 6 pence), a substantial sum of money.

**The Course:**

This course will undertake an exploration and understanding of children's literature as a system for the delivery of knowledge and ideology to both children and adults. While our readings of children's literature will take into account the genre's traditional "expressive" or aesthetic dimensions, they will also attempt to find historical and theoretical contexts for analysis. Much of the focus of the course will be on 19th Century books, but there will be a wide range of titles under consideration which may include the following: *Pilgrim's Progress*, *Alice in Wonderland*, *The Just So Stories*, "Goblin Market," *The Secret Garden*, *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*, *Where the Wild Things Are*, *Peter Pan*, *The People Could Fly* and the recent Newbery Prize winner, *A Single Shard*.

The theoretical approaches to children's literature will include the work of Bruno Bettelheim, Philippe Ariès, U. C. Knoepfelmacher, Peter Hunt, Jacqueline Rose and Jack Zipes. The central principle of this course is that what we read --or have read to us-- as children is part of broader cultural and ideological projects that have lasting social and political significance.

**Texts** (ADDITIONAL READINGS WILL BE ON ELECTRONIC RESERVE):

- Barrie, James Matthew. *Peter Pan* (Puffin Classics). ISBN: 0140366741.
- Bettelheim, Bruno. *The Uses of Enchantment: The Meaning and Importance of Fairy Tales*. Vintage. ISBN: 0679723935
- Burnett, Frances Hodgson. *The Secret Garden*. Penguin; ISBN: 0141182180.
- Burton, Virginia Lee. *Mike Mulligan and His Steam Shovel*. Houghton Mifflin Co.; ISBN: 0395259398.
- Carroll, Lewis. *Alice in Wonderland*. 1865. New York: Signet, 1960. ISBN: 0451527747
- Hamilton, Virginia. *The People Could Fly*. Knopf; ISBN: 0679843361.
- Kipling, Rudyard. *Just So Stories* Signet; ISBN: 0451528360.
- Park, Linda Sue. *A Single Shard*. Hardcover: Clarion Books; ISBN: 0395978270.
- Rose, Jacqueline. *The Case of Peter Pan: Or the Impossibility of Children's Fiction*. U. Penn. Press; ISBN: 0812214358.
- Rowling, J. K. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone* (Book 1). Scholastic Trade; ISBN: 059035342X.
- Sendak, Maurice. *Where the Wild Things Are*. HarperTrophy; ISBN: 0064431789.
- Tatar, Maria. *The Classic Fairy Tales*. W W Norton & Co.; ISBN: 0393972771.
- Zipes, Jack David. *Happily Ever After: Fairy Tales, Children, and the Culture Industry*. Routledge; ISBN: 0415918510.

**Grading & Assignments:**

Knowledge Topic & Class Presentations.....	25%
Paper 1.....	20%
Term Essay.....	35%
Class Participation.....	10%



Attendance is, of course, required, but course participation involves more than just showing up. It requires you to keep up with the reading and writing assignments, as well as participating in workshops and class discussions. This course deals with theoretical issues as well as practical assignments, so what happens in class is very important.

If you're having problems, talk to me! Don't miss class because you're a little late, but try NOT to be late. Bring your books to class and write marginal notes in your books!

**Honor Code:**

Every student and instructor enters into a tacit "contract" with each other that depends on honesty, responsibility, and mutual respect. While UNC Charlotte doesn't have a formal Honor Code, it should always be understood that we are working together toward the same end.

If you are uncertain about what plagiarism means or how to cite material properly, talk to me!



An illustration from Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are*.