DSL 3 BA SEMINAR
Explorations into 21st-century Children’s Literature and Culture of the Anglosphere: Texts, Media, Audiences, and Theoretical Approaches

Fall/Winter 2016/2017

We will analyze recent phenomena of Anglophone children’s literature and culture, e.g. Harry Potter fandom, young adult vampire fiction, postmodern picture books and graphic novels, the dystopian turn in children’s literature, interactive children’s books, the popularity of kids’ diaries, or the success of Pretty Little Liars. Simultaneously, we will use both established approaches to children’s culture and such new perspectives as cognitive approaches, childhood studies, ecocritical pedagogy, or empirical reader response research. We will look into the educational potential of children’s literature, including EFL and new media literacies, and about literary workshop practice with children. We will also explore economic contexts of the production of children’s culture. The classes will most probably include a workshop by a professional teacher of English and a guest talk by a children’s literature scholar from Australia.


Home assignment:

WEEK 2: Understanding children’s literature: Library of the Early Mind (film and discussion)

Home assignment:

WEEK 3: Understanding children’s literature/understanding young readers.

Home assignment:
Read http://henryjenkins.org/2009/07/how_dumbledores_army_is_transf.html

WEEK 4: Potteromania.

Home assignment:


WEEK 5: LGBTQ children’s and YA books: *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe* by Benjamin Alire Sáenz, *Am I Blue: Coming Out from the Silence* ed. by Marion Dane Bauer, Love in the Age of Global Warming by Francesca Lia Block, *And Tango Makes Three* by Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson.

Home assignment:

WEEK 6: Dystopian fiction and film for young readers: *Feed* by M.T. Anderson and *How I Live Now* (film)

Home assignment:
Read Robert Sabuda’s *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* and *The Little Mermaid* (library reserve).


Watch https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kUJINRAAnnUI.


Visit http://www.shauntan.net/

Home assignment:


WEEK 8: Graphic novels: The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick, The Arrival by Shaun Tan, American Born Chinese by Gene Young.

WEEK 9 Hugo (film)

Home assignment: Read https://www.theguardian.com/childrens-books-site/2014/apr/03/rebecca-westcott-top-10-diary-books


Home assignment:
Read: https://journal.lib.uoguelph.ca/index.php/perj/article/view/2744/3137#.VBTCQfl_uHg


WEEK 11 Children’s literature and the digital media: The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore combo.

Home assignment:
Visit http://www.examiner.com/article/zombie-books-for-teens


Home assignment:
Visit: http://prettylittleliars.alloyentertainment.com/books/

WEEK 13 *Pretty Little Liars* and its fandom.

WEEKS 14-15: Reserve and students’ presentations of the BA thesis outlines.

**DEADLINES AND GRADING POLICY:**

Students are expected to attend the classes (you are allowed TWO absences without a medical leave) and actively participate in discussions (10 points). Those missing more than 2 meetings will have 3 points deducted per each missed class. TO PASS: you are expected to submit ALL the assignments.

Assignments:

1. Presentation/discussion of primary texts (individual or in pairs) (10 points).
2. Submission of 8 responses to the theoretical readings (300 words) (5 points each) (due on Mondays before each class!!!). I WILL NOT ACCEPT LATE SUBMISSIONS!!!
3. Presentation and submission of the thesis outline, preliminary bibliography (MLA format), the introductory chapter, the 1st analytical chapter

**DEADLINES:**

- The outline and bibliography: 15th November, 2016 (10 points)
- The introductory chapter: 2nd January, 2017 (15 points)
- The 1st analytical chapter: 1st February, 2017 (15 points)

**Grading scale:**

- 51%–60% 3
- 61%–70% 3.5
- 71%–80% 4
- 81%–90% 4.5
- 91%–100% 5.0

Plagiarism or the failure to keep the deadlines will mean the negative final grade for the course. I will not accept late submissions.