

*Disclaimer: This is an indicative syllabus only and may be subject to changes. The final and official syllabus will be distributed by the Instructor during the first day of class.*

**The American University of Rome**  
**English Writing, Literature, and Publishing Program**

*Department or degree program mission statement, student learning objectives, as appropriate*

<b>Course Title:</b>	Fables, Fairy Tales, Legends: From King Arthur to Disney
<b>Course Number:</b>	ENG 316
<b>Credits &amp; hours:</b>	3 credits – 3 hours
<b>Pre/Co-Requisites:</b>	ENG 200 or ENG 201 or ENG 204

**Course description**

This course introduces students to the development of the 'fairy tale' genre as part of the broader literary folklore and children literature tradition. This course is designed to explore the rich tradition of fables, fairy tales, and legends, examining their origins, and cultural significance.

The course will introduce students to the evolution of the 'fairy tale genre' and its popularization starting with its origin to be found in King Arthur's early depictions, culminating during the 'Golden Age of Children Literature,' over the 18th and 19th century in works such as Perrault's Little Red Riding Hood, Carroll's Alice in Wonderland, L. Frank Baum's The Wizard of Oz and Barrie's Peter Pan, ultimately ending with retelling of fairy tales during the late 20th century with Angela Carter and Roald Dahl's Revolting Rhymes. The course will also familiarize students with the modern 'fairy tale genre', lastly showing how the genre has shifted to this day post Disneyfication. The course will consider how these tales have been adapted, reinterpreted, and passed down through generations, as well as how they reflect universal themes of morality, identity, and the human condition.

**Required Textbook (subject to change)**

- Jack Zipes, general editor et al. The Norton Anthology of Children's Literature: The Traditions in English. New York: W.W. Norton, 2005.
- Carroll, Lewis. Alice's Adventures in Wonderland and through the Looking Glass. Penguin Classics, 2012.

All further readings will be provided by the professor via the AUR library.

**Course Learning Objectives**

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1. critically consider the evolution of the fairy tale genre and its relationship to human identity
2. engage with the moral, psychological, and philosophical implications of fairy tales
3. assess the main features of a canonic text pertaining to the genre
4. distinguish between approaches of main theoretical criticism in children literature and literary folklore
5. explore the impact of these stories on literature, film, art and modern media

### Course Learning Activities

- Two critical in-class essays:
- Each will focus on a work or works whether textual and/or adaptation. Students will present the guiding ideas underlying the literary production of the time and illustrate the presented concepts with concrete and specific examples from a selection of the assigned readings. Students must include a selection of quotes from the primary sources for use in the essay. For each essay students must provide an outline with quotes used.
- Learning Objective: To demonstrate familiarity with the readings and the associated literary and folklore theory; to scrutinize text and re-organize material as evidence in a coherent presentation of the essential features of a given literary production and/or movie adaptation (LOC 1-3;5).
- Mid-term: The midterm will include short answer questions.
- Learning Objective: To apply the knowledge and methods learned during the semester autonomously to text, theory and or adaptation; to show autonomy and qualified originality in critical analysis (LOC 1-2).
- Final exam: The final exam will include short answer questions.
- Learning Objective: To apply the knowledge and methods learned during the semester autonomously to text, theory and or adaptation; to show autonomy and qualified originality in critical analysis (LOC 1-2).
- Lectures: led by the instructor on each topic (LO 1, 3, 4)

### Assessment tools

Participation	15%
Midterm Presentation	20%
In class Essay I	20%
In class Essay II	20%
Final Presentation	25%

## COURSE SCHEDULE

Weeks	Topic	Reading
WEEK 1	Introduction to the course. What are fairy tales? Definitions of folklore and target audience.	
	Class discussion on 'Childhood' vs 'Adulthood'	Peter Hunt Rousseau
WEEK 2	What is the purpose of a fairy tale?	Vladimir Propp
WEEK 3	Components of a fairy tale: worldbuilding	Tolkien; JK Rowling
WEEK 4	The origin: from Parables to Knights	Aesop Chaucer
	Chivalry, Camelot and the Round table: The origin of	Sir Gawain Malory
WEEK 5	Nothing for Children: the 17 <sup>th</sup> century	Swift
	Pre-Golden Age: Animal Fables & Lullabies	Walter Crane, Rudyard Kipling, Jane Taylor
WEEK 6	The <i>Golden Age</i> of Children Literature. Three versions of <i>Little Red Riding Hood</i>	Perrault Grimm
	Morality, Fear, Didacticism & Subversion: the case of <i>Revolting Rhymes</i>	Roald Dahl
WEEK 7	Establishing the canon: <i>Cinderella, Snow-white, Pinocchio</i>	Grimm
	Andersen's <i>Little Mermaid</i>	Andersen
WEEK 8	Wonderland: Nonsense, riddles and games. Alice's invasion.	Lewis Carroll Kincaid
	Wonderland continued: Alice's influence post 1865 from theatre to fashion and cosplaying.	Lewis Carroll
WEEK 9	Wonderland vs Oz: The American Modern Fairy Tale	L. Frank Baum.
WEEK 10	Illustration! The advent of picture books: kitchens, monsters, caterpillars, chocolate factories. Visualizing fun!	Sendak, Wise, Carle + Quentin Blake's illustration of Dahl's <i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i>
WEEK 10	Illustration II Beatrix potter. Realistic pictures for curious children.	Potter
WEEK 11	Disneyfication I Canons on screen. In class screening: students get to choose one between: <i>Peter Pan, Pinocchio, Alice in Wonderland, Beauty and the Beast</i>	Zipser
WEEK 12	Disneyfication II Environmental retellings. In class screening: <i>Wall - E</i>	
WEEK 13	Orientalism: The case of Disney's <i>Aladdin</i>	Edward Said
WEEK 13	Faults in the canon: <i>The Little Mermaid</i> Retelling it all or creating new stories?	Angela Carter
WEEK 14	The future of fairy tales. Fairy tales vs AI; picture books vs ebooks. Embarking the digital frontier. Memes!	

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

In keeping with AUR's mission to prepare students to live and work across cultures, the University places a high value on classroom experience. As a result attendance is expected in all classes and attendance records are maintained. The University's attendance policy is as follows:

1.0. Minimum Attendance Requirement: Students must attend a minimum of 70% of a course in order to be eligible to be considered for a passing grade.

### 1.1. Automatically Accepted Absences

Students will not be penalized for one absence from classes meeting once a week;  
Students will not be penalized for three absences from classes meeting twice a week;  
Students will not be penalized for four absences from classes meeting more than twice a week, as in the case of some intensive courses.

1.2. If further absences are recorded, grade penalties will be applied according to the Instructor's specific attendance policy, as stated in the syllabus, and following the institutional parameters given in the Note\* below.

1.2.1. If the Instructor does not specify an attendance policy, there will be no grade penalty other than that attached to the minimum attendance requirement, and any penalized absences recorded above the basic 70% attendance requirement for the course will be invalidated.

1.3. During Summer sessions where courses are taught more intensively over a shorter period the following applies:

- Students will not be penalized for two absences from class.

### 2.0. Tolerated Absences

Certain categories of absence will not be penalized but they will be counted as an absence (for a 3-credit course meeting twice a week). These absences are:

- The Model United Nations (MUN);
- Permit to Stay,
- SG's "Ambassador Program" (Student Government initiative)
- Religious Holidays

The American University of Rome makes all reasonable efforts to accommodate students who must be absent from classes to observe religious holidays. (Please verify with the Dean's Office for the list of accepted absences for religious holidays)

Not attending a class due to the observance of a religious holiday will not be penalized but will be counted as an absence. Students who will need to miss class in order to observe religious holidays must notify their Instructors by the end of the Add/Drop period (first week of classes), and must make prior arrangements with their Instructors to make up any work missed.

2.1. The list does NOT include academic field trips because these (including arrangements for travel) must not overlap with other classes.

3.0. Cases of prolonged absences caused by an emergency or a medical condition may require students to withdraw from some or all of their courses. Under such circumstances students should first consult their academic advisors.

\*Note: No instructor may penalize a student more than one-third of a letter grade for each absence beyond the tolerated limit (e.g. from A- to B+).

#### Grade Point Average

A student's grade point average (GPA) is computed by multiplying the quality points achieved by the number of credits for each course. The result is then divided by the total number of credit hours taken. The Cumulative or Career Total Grade Point Average (CGPA) is the grade point average for all credit hours taken at the University and at approved study abroad programs. The GPA and CGPA are calculated by truncating after the second digit after the decimal point. Transfer credits have no effect on the CGPA at The American University of Rome.

#### Grades

Grades are posted on a secure area of the University's official website and are mailed to AUR degree students only upon written request. Grades are mailed to the various study abroad programs. Grades computed in the (GPA) reflect the following grade equivalents:

GRADE		GPA	
A	Excellent	4.00	94 – 100 points
A-		3.70	90 – 93.99 pts
B+	Very Good	3.30	87 – 89.99
B	Good	3.00	83 – 86.99
B-		2.70	80 – 82.99
C+		2.30	77 – 79.99
C	Satisfactory	2.00	73 – 76.99
C-	Less than Satisfactory	1.70	70 – 72.99
D	Poor	1.00	60 – 69.99
F	Failing	0.00	59.99 – 0
WU	Unofficial withdrawal counts as an F	0.00	
P	Applicable to development courses	0.00	
<i>Grades not computed into the grade point average are:</i>			
W	Withdrawal		
AUDIT (AU)	Only possible when the student registers for a course at the beginning of the semester as an audit student		
I	Incomplete work must be completed within the ensuing semester. Failure to do so results in automatically converting the I grade to the default grade, which is then computed into the grade point average		
P	Pass grade is applicable to courses as indicated in the catalog.		
WIP	Work in progress		