

ENL 2930 (4709)
Spring 2014

Instructor: John Cech (V)
109 Little Hall T4/Th4-5

Myths of the Child: From Hermes to Harry Potter

The child is all that is abandoned and at the same time divinely powerful; the insignificant, dubious beginning and the triumphal end. The “eternal child” in man is an indescribable experience, an incongruity, a handicap, and a divine prerogative.

CARL JUNG

The goal of this course is to explore the range of the mythic paradigms that have been with us, often for millennia, in our various representations of the child. It will examine such fundamental archetypes of the child as those expressions of him/ her as a redemptive source and a creative genius, as a wily trickster and an innocent observer, as a “bad seed” and a symbol of futurity, as a heroic magician and as a rebel, with and without causes. This constellation of meanings attached to the child will be approached through readings in mythology and depth psychology, through films and other media, and through famous “touchstone” works of children’s literature.

Readings

A variety of readings and viewings will be assigned during the course. These texts are available through campus and online book stores; video material can be found at Library West and other libraries, video stores, and Netflix. Other works are accessible online. Additional texts will be added to this core list during the course.

Blake, William. *Songs of Innocence; Songs of Experience* (online etext).
Burnett, Frances Hodgson. *The Secret Garden*.
Homeric Hymn to Hermes (online etext).
Hughes, Richard. *A High Wind in Jamaica*.
Lindgren, Astrid. *Pippi Longstocking*
Rowling, J.K. *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.
Sendak, M. *Where the Wild Things Are; In the Night Kitchen; Outside Over There*.
St. Exupery, Antoine de. *The Little Prince*,

Course Assignments and Requirements

Two reading quizzes (10 points each)
A series of creative and critical writings (40 points)
A mid-term (20 points)
A final exam (30 points)

Active, punctual, courteous attendance.

More than three absences will result in point deductions that will affect your grade.

An active email account that is on record with UF.

Assignments are subject to change - please check the listserv.

All laptops should be in sleep mode and all phones silenced during the class lectures.

Office Hours

Tuesdays, 11:45 - 12:30, Thursdays 1:00 -2:00, and by appointment
 Office: 4364 Turlington Hall
 Phone: (352) 294 - 2861
 email: icech@ufl.edu

From Hermes to Harry Potter

Schedule

Spring 2014

January	7	Introductions.	
	9	The Myths of the Child: An Overview.	
	14	What are Myths? From the Cosmic to the Personal. See: Private Dramas, Public Dreams: The Street Photographs of Helen Levitt & Friends @ Ham Museum of Art.	
	16	Every Childhood is a Mythic Childhood. Writing #1 due in class.	
	21	Culture Heroes, Messiahs, Saoshyants, Tulkus. Readings online tba.	
	23	Ancient Childhoods, Heroic and Tragic.	
	28	The Trickster in Myth, Folklore, and Fairy Tale. Online readings tba.	
	30	A Hymn, to Hermes? Read: http://www.theoi.com/Text/HomericHymns2.html .	
Feb.	4	Contested Child: <i>Ile Prioress' s Tale</i> , The Children's Crusade, and <i>Babes in the Woods</i> .	
	6	Controlling the Child: Read: <i>Struwwelpeter</i> stories online. Quiz #1.	
	11	Romantic Child. Read Blake's <i>Songs of Innocence and Experience</i> .	
	13	Blake, Runge, and the Putti. The Child in Nature: Rousseau. Writing #2 due in class.	
	18	Who's the Oldest Man of All? Read: etext of <i>The Golden Key</i> .	
	20	Alice and Peter and Wendy and Kate: Visit to the Baldwin Library.	
	25	What is it about gardens? Greenaway and <i>The Secret Garden</i> .	
	27	A Child and a Camera: Jacques Henri Lartigue. Mid-term.	
March	4 - 6	Spring Break.	
	11	In the American Grain: Little Nemo, <i>The Kid</i> . Our Gang, and Shirley Temple.	
	13	The Others: <i>The Wild Boys of the Road</i> , and the Dead End Kids. Writing #3 due in class.	
	18	Nature or Nurture? <i>Ile Bad Seed</i> . Rebels, and Pirates. Read: <i>A High Wind in Jamaica</i> .	
	20	E.T. and Damien. Viewings: <i>E.T.: The Omen: Firestarter: Home Alone</i> .	
	25	Who's the Strongest Girl in Sweden? Read: <i>Pippi Longstocking</i> .	
	27	The Philosophical Child: Read: <i>The Little Prince</i> . Quiz #2.	
April	1	Fooling the Child. Online readings tba.	
	3	Sendak's Wild Things: Max, Mickey, Ida and the Nutshell Kids.	
	8	Nonsense and the Child: Dr. Seuss. <i>Green Eggs and Ham. Ile Cat in the Hat</i> .	
	10	Silverstein, Music, and Other Border-crossings. Readings tba. Writing #4 due in class.	
	15	The Heroic Paradigm: <i>Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone</i> .	
	17	Artemis, Katniss, Ender, et al. New (old) directions.	
	15	Where Are We Going? Pop, Hip Hop, and Other Possibilities.	
	17	Concluding discussion. Review.	
	22	Final Exam.	

Grading Rubric

This is a 100-point course based on the total scores of your writing, quizzes and exams. There will be a one-point deduction for each unexcused absences after the three allowed for the course.

Please contact me immediately if you have an emergency or special circumstances that cause you to miss class.

A = 92 - 100	B+ = 88 - 89	C+ = 78 - 79	D + = 68 - 69	E = 59 and below
A- = 90-91	B = 82 - 87	C = 72 - 77	D = 62 - 67	
	B - = 80 - 81	C - = 70 - 71	D - = 60 - 61	

General Responsibilities

You are responsible for being in class to find out about class assignments and for checking the listserv regularly for assignment updates and details. Please do not email me to ask, "what did I miss in class?" or "what's the assignment?"

I will be happy to discuss any assignments with you before or after class or during office hours. Please see me immediately if you have any questions about your grades or my comments about your work in the course. Do not wait until the last week of classes to have the discussion you wanted to have at mid-term.

Final Grade appeals.

1000- and 2000- level courses: students may appeal a final grade by filling out a form available from Carla Blount, Program Assistant in the English Department

Composition and Humanities credit

This course can satisfy the UF General Education requirement for Composition or Humanities. For more information, see:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/general-education-requirement.aspx>

Disability Services

The Disability Resource Center in the Dean of Students Office provides information and support regarding accommodations for students with disabilities. For more information, see:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>

Statement on Harassment

UF provides an educational and working environment that is free from sex discrimination and sexual harassment for its students, staff, and faculty. For more about UF policies regarding harassment, see: <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/sexual/>

Academic Honesty

All students must abide by the Student Honor Code. For more information about academic honesty, including definitions of plagiarism and unauthorized collaboration, see:

<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/scer/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

This is a General Education course providing student learning outcomes listed in the Undergraduate Catalog. For more information, see: <http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/general-education-requirement.aspx#learning>."