

Introduction to the Fairy Tale

Kimberly Lau | Summer 2015 | MW 1-4:30 | 179 Social Sciences 2

Course Overview

There's something magical about the fairy tale. In essence a simple and formulaic narrative, it has nonetheless enchanted us for centuries and continues to do so. Today, fairy tales are part of our common culture; they are told or read to us as children, adapted for adult and young adult fiction, featured in advertisements, and portrayed in film and on television. In this course, we will focus on the fairy tale as an oral and a literary genre in and across these different media.

We will begin with an overview of scholarship devoted to the definition and traditions of the fairy tale: how it has been defined and how its definition is affected by distinctions between "orality" and "literacy" and "folk" and "elite" as well as by scholarly and popular traditions of collecting, editing, and anthologizing. From there, we will consider a number of early formal and structural approaches to the fairy tale: classification systems, motifs, indexes, the search for origins, and the fairy tale's underlying structure. Throughout these first two foundational sections, we will also read fairy tales from oral, literary, and anthologized sources to provide a broad base for discussion, interpretation, analysis, and reinterpretation and transformation.

In the next section, we will transition from concerns over origins and classification to the most common modes of interpretation — Marxism, psychoanalysis, feminism, and queer studies. Finally, we will conclude by considering transformations of the fairy tale into other media, paying particular attention to the historical, cultural, and political contexts in which each text emerges.

Course Information

How to Contact me

email: lau@ucsc.edu
 office hours: by appointment

Please contact me or one of the TAs if you have questions about any of the course policies, readings, assignments, or if there is anything else you'd like to discuss.

Teaching Assistants (TAs)

Kendra Dority (kdority@ucsc.edu)
 Kara Hisatake (khisatak@ucsc.edu)

Course Readings

All readings are required and are available at the Literary Guillotine (204 Locust Street). Readings in the course reader are also available electronically through eCommons.

Fables: Legends in Exile (Bill Willingham)
Fables: 1001 Nights of Snowfall (Bill Willingham)
 Course Reader

Assignments and Grades

Grades will be based on the following breakdown:

Short paper #1	25 %
Midterm Exam	25 %
Final Exam	35 %
Participation Attendance	15 %

Relevant Policies

Participation and Attendance

I expect everyone to participate in class discussions and group exercises. In order that you are able to participate in meaningful ways that contribute to the overall success of the course, it is mandatory that you complete all the reading and assignments *before* class. Any failure to complete the reading will be reflected in your participation and attendance grade.

It is also crucial that you do not miss class. Should you have an extreme emergency, please notify your TA and me as soon as possible. **If you miss more than one class, you will automatically fail the participation and attendance part of the course; if you miss more than two classes, you will automatically fail the course.**

Late Work / Your Work

I will not accept any late assignments. Additional time will be arranged for students with documented disabilities (see below for information on the Disability Resource Center).

Any evidence of plagiarism or cheating will automatically fail you from the course. For relevant definitions and policies, please see

Code of Student Conduct (www2.ucsc.edu/judicial/student-conduct07.pdf) and

University policy on academic integrity for undergraduate students

(http://www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity/undergraduate_students/).

Dropping the Course

Monday, June 29 is the last day to drop this course.

Friday, July 10 is the last day to withdraw from the course.

Disability Resource Center / Americans with Disabilities Act

UCSC's Disability Resource Center (DRC) provides resources and support for students with documented disabilities. If you qualify for classroom accommodations because of a disability, please submit your Accommodation Authorization from the DRC to me after class or during my office hours in a timely manner, preferably within the first two weeks of the quarter. For more information, please contact the Disability Resource Center at 459-2089 (voice), 459-4806 (TTY), drc@ucsc.edu or www2.ucsc.edu/drc.

Course Schedule

Storytelling Traditions: Tales and their Collectors

- | | | |
|---|------|---|
| M | 6/22 | Introductions
"Oral Tradition" (Greenwood Encyclopedia of Folk and Fairy Tales)
"Fairy Tale" (Greenwood Encyclopedia of Folk and Fairy Tales)
"How to Read a Fairy Tale" (Christine Jones and Jennifer Schacker)
Tales 1: Snow White (Basile, Grimms), All Fur (Grimms), Donkey Skin (Perrault), Cinderella (Grimms, Perrault) |
| W | 6/24 | "On Fairy Tales and Their Anthologies" (Christine Jones and Jennifer Schacker)
"Rewritten by Adults" (Maria Tatar)
"The Brothers Grimm as Collectors and Editors of German Folktales" (Siegfried Neumann)
Tales 2: Beauty and the Beast (Beaumont), The Little Mermaid (Andersen), The Snow Queen (Andersen) |

From Source to Meaning: Methods of Study and Interpretation

- M 6/29** *historical approaches*
“Peasants Tell Tales: The Meaning of Mother Goose” (Robert Darnton)
“Silenced Women in the Grimms’ Tales” (Ruth Bottigheimer)
Tales 3: Little Red Riding Hood (Delarue, Perrault, Grimms), Sleeping Beauty (Basile, Perrault, Grimms), Bluebeard (Perrault, Grimms), Fitcher’s Bird (Grimms)
- W 7/1** *feminist and queer approaches*
“An Introduction to the ‘Innocent Persecuted Heroine’ Fairy Tale” (Cristina Bacchilega)
“Once Upon a Queer Time” (Pauline Greenhill and Kay Turner)
“Playing with Fire: Transgression as Truth in Grimms’ ‘Frau Trude’” (Kay Turner)
Snow White (Walt Disney)
DUE: Fairy Tale Adaptation
- M 7/6** *psychoanalytic and Marxist approaches*
“Snow White” (Bruno Bettelheim)
“The Instrumentalization of Fantasy: Fairy Tales, the Culture Industry, and the Mass Media” (Jack Zipes) | pages 104-124; 127-129; 137-145
- W 7/8** **Midterm Exam**

Cultural Politics and the Transformation of the Fairy Tale

- M 7/13** “Feminine Empowerment in Disney’s Beauty and the Beast” (Sharon Downey)
Shrek (Dreamworks)
- W 7/15** “Wolf” (Francesca Lia Block)
“Wolfland” (Tanith Lee)
Once Upon a Time, season 1, episode 15
Red Riding Hood (Catherine Hardwicke)
- M 7/20** *Fables: Legends in Exile* and *Fables: 1001 Nights of Snowfall*
- W 7/22** **Final Exam**