

weekly  
syllabus

## Welcome to HCOL 186K- Women in European Fairy Tales Spring 2018

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:25-5:40, UHTN 16

Cristina Mazzoni, Waterman 506-A

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:45-2:45 & by appointment

week 1

week 2

week 3

week 4

week 5

week 6

week 7

week 8

week 9

week 10

week 11

week 12

week 13

week 14

### I. Course description & learning objectives

You are probably very familiar with the stories of Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, and Rapunzel, but you may not realize that the oldest versions of these tales come from Renaissance Italy. More interestingly, few people know that the first Cinderella murdered her own stepmother by crushing her skull with the lid of a trunk; that the original Sleeping Beauty was raped and impregnated by a king married to someone else; and that Rapunzel, in the earliest version of the tale, drugged the ogress so she could have sex with the prince who climbed up the tower on her long braids. In this course, we will read these and other tale types from the European tradition (including "Beauty and the Beast" and "Little Red Riding Hood"), and watch some of the most compelling of their film adaptations.

Students in this course will learn to do the following, both orally and in writing:

1. describe the origins, structure, meanings, and historical development of European fairy tales as a literary genre;
2. retell a number of classic European fairy tales, highlighting in the process the differences between versions from various times and places, and some of the reasons for these differences;
3. analyze fairy tales according to a variety of critical approaches, including structuralist, feminist, and psychoanalytic.

Because this is a seminar-style course, class participation counts heavily towards the final grade, and students will be expected to do all readings and prepare all discussion questions before each class meeting. The rest of the grade is determined by an oral presentation, a class journal, an annotated bibliography, a research paper, a midterm, and a final.

### II. Syllabus & readings

The **syllabus** detailing the schedule of readings may be updated regularly throughout the semester according to the needs of this particular class; it is therefore not advisable to print it out in its entirety at the start of the semester.

There are 2 textbooks to buy:

1. Maria Tatar, *The Classic Fairy Tales* (Norton Critical Editions); any edition works **available used on Amazon**
2. Angela Carter, *The Bloody Chamber*; any edition works **Available on Amazon**

The rest of the readings are available on line, linked from the syllabus; **please print them out and bring them to class** so that we may work on them together (bringing an iPad/Kindle also works, but, please, NO open laptops in class, as they impede the personal contact necessary for full interaction); **not bringing your texts to class, either as a printout or on a Kindle/iPad, WILL lower your class participation grade.**

\*\*\*You may print your work for this class (readings as well as assignments), without charge, in the **Language Resource Center** on Redstone Campus, Southwick Hall.\*\*\*

### III. Homework, participation, attendance

Homework is due on the day indicated on the **syllabus**; homework consists of doing the readings carefully, **writing** the answers to the questions on the readings listed in the **syllabus**, and being ready to answer them orally in class. Although I do not collect these answers, I do keep track of whether you do them or not.

Participation consists in asking relevant questions, making helpful comments, and responding thoughtfully to questions and comments by the instructor and/or your classmates.

Regular attendance and active participation are essential for the success of this class as a whole and of each of you as individual students. For classes that meet 2 days per week, I allow two (2) unexcused absences, after which, without an official excuse, you can expect your overall class grade to drop (these allowed absences should include light illness, faulty alarm clocks, and late or early plane departures). Officially excused absences may consist of: 1. religious holidays ("Each semester students should submit in writing to their instructors by the end of the second full week of classes their documented religious holiday schedule for the semester"); 2. UVM-sponsored events (during the first 2 weeks of classes, you must submit a letter to me, on UVM letterhead and signed by your supervisor or coach, with the dates and reasons for your absences); c. Dean's excuse (contact your Dean's Office if you have a serious reason to miss a class and they will email me).

**You are not to leave the classroom except for an emergency--leaving the classroom more than once during the semester will negatively affect your class participation grade (if you have a medical reason for leaving the room during class, please talk to me or send me an email).**

**If you carry a cell phone to class, it should be neither audible nor visible.**

**N.B.** According to the definition of the standard credit hour, you are expected to put in two hours of work at home for every credit of a course. For this 3-credit course, this means 6 hours of out-of-class work per week.

#### **IV. Midterm and final exams**

There will be a midterm exam and a final exam, consisting of short questions and identifications of important excerpts; an online study sheet will be provided shortly before each exam.

#### **V. Oral presentation**

With a partner, you will present to the class one of the fairy tales we have already studied. The presentation consists of a dramatic retelling of the tale followed by a critical interpretation. Reading and notes are not allowed during the oral presentation but you are encouraged to bring in as many props as you'd like. Details about the presentation will be provided later in the semester.

#### **VI. Class journal**

I expect you to prepare for each class by \*typing\* a class journal, with an average of one page per class; this journal consists of your personal reactions to the readings and/or to the class discussion, etc. Although the style of the journal is personal and not scholarly, your writing should be clear and effective, keeping in mind that someone else (i.e., me) will read / skim it. I will collect it 3 times during the semester: once towards the beginning of the semester, so as to gauge how it is going (the grade for this is just to give you feedback and I will not record it); the journal is due again on the day of the midterm and on the last day of classes. I may ask you to refer to it in class, so make sure you bring it with you when we meet.

#### **VII. Annotated bibliography and essay**

You will practice in this class how to perform academic research in literature and produce an annotated bibliography; this will be the basis for the research essay you will write. The essay is a comparative reading of 3 different versions of a fairy tale of your choice, written in two drafts (2500-3000 words, 10-12 pages) preceded by an outline, and following the MLA style. Details about the annotated bibliography and the essay will be provided later in the semester.

#### **VIII. Academic honesty**

This is something I take \*extremely\* seriously. I expect you to do all your own work, to use quotation marks and footnotes every time you use someone else's words (including in your homework: you should not copy from the readings), and certainly not to copy at exams. I report all cases of academic dishonesty to the **Center for Student Ethics and Standards**. Let me assure you, it is \*not\* worth it, neither for your grade nor, especially, for your soul. Come see me if you are having problems with this class: it is a much more effective way of dealing with them.

#### **IX. Email**

I occasionally email you with reminders, announcements, questions, comments. To do this easily, I use the registrar's site, which in turn uses your UVM email address. If your UVM email address is not the one you regularly use, please log onto **webmail** and make the necessary adjustments to forward your UVM-account mail to the email address you normally use.

#### **X. Grade breakdown**

25%: class participation & written homework  
5%: class journal  
5%: oral presentation  
10%: annotated bibliography

25%: 10-12-page essay  
10%: midterm exam  
20%: final exam

**FINAL EXAM: MAY 10 2018, 4:30-7:15 PM, UHTN 016**