Welcome to HCOL 186K- Women in European Fairy Tales
Spring 2019
Tuesdays & Thursdays, 4:25-5:40, UHTN 16

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Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:45-2:40 & by appointment

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, and two exams.

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 on Amazon
2. Angela Carter, The Bloody Chamber; any edition works
Available on Amazon

All readings are available online, 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.

We will be discussing all tales for a couple of days, so bring to class the readings for the previous day as well as the current ones.

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. Exams
There will be two exams in the course of the semester, consisting of short questions and identifications of important excerpts; an online study sheet will be provided shortly before each exam.

Although a lot of what we do in class relies on your personal reading and interpretation of the tales, there are facts about the history and features of fairy tales as a genre that you need to be familiar with in order to discuss these tales in an informed scholarly context.

V. Oral presentation
With a partner, you will present to the class one of the fairy tale types we have already studied. The presentation consists of a dramatic retelling of your own version of the tale preceded by a brief introduction and followed by a critical interpretation focused on the representation of women in your telling and in this tale type. 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 single-spaced 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, 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 our discussion, so make sure you bring it with you to class.

In addition to giving you valuable writing practice in preparation for the more formal writing you will be doing for this class, the journal gives you a chance to engage more personally with the tales, which in turn will allow you to discuss them more effectively with others.

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, along with opportunities to discuss and practice both assignments.

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
30%: 2 exams, 15% each
10%: annotated bibliography
25%: 10-12-page essay