**World Literature 2309-010**

**Once Upon a Time: Fairy Tales, Fantasy and Magical Literature**

*Someone needs to tell those tales. When the battles are fought and won and lost, when the pirates find their treasures and the dragons eat their foes for breakfast…someone needs to tell their bits of overlapping narrative. There's magic in that. It's in the listener, and for each and every ear it will be different, and it will affect them in ways they can never predict.* ~ [Erin Morgenstern](http://www.goodreads.com/author/show/4370565.Erin_Morgenstern), [*The Night Circus*](http://www.goodreads.com/work/quotes/14245059)

**Instructor:** Rachael Mariboho **Course Information:** T/TH 12:30-1:50; SH 333

**Office:** 402 Carlisle Hall **Office Hours:** T/TH 9:00-9:30, 2:00-3:00

**E-mail:** mariboho@uta.edu

**Required Texts & Materials:**

The Norton Critical Edition of Classic Fairy Tales

John Connolly, *The Book of Lost Things*

Tea Obreht, *The Tiger’s Wife*

Paulo Coehlo, *The Alchemist*

Selected Readings (Available on Blackboard) YOU must print these readings and bring them to class

**Course Description:**

This course will examine contemporary popular modes of storytelling, including fairy tales, fantasy, and magical realism. We will discuss the ways magic and other elements have enabled authors to transgress the boundaries between reality and imagination and create works whose popularity transcends language and cultural barriers. The works we read illuminate issues of race; gender; class and economic oppression; marginalization; postcolonialism; cultural difference and cultural discrimination; religious discrimination, as well as other important literary issues. The authors we will study and the characters they have created have influenced many facets of literature, film and the arts. Students will be encouraged to explore the literary, artistic, cultural, and historical milieus of the works we will read and to share their discoveries with the other students in the class.

**Course Objectives:** This course satisfies the University of Texas at Arlington core curriculum requirements in Language, Philosophy, and Culture. The required objectives of these courses are the development of students’ critical thinking, communication skills, personal responsibility, and social responsibility. Many elements of this course foster development of these objectives, which are explicitly addressed in the “Signature Assignment” (see below). The Departmental guidelines for sophomore literature can be found by typing “sophomore literature” in the “Search UT Arlington” box on the University website: <http://www.uta.edu/ut>a.

**Student Learning Outcomes:**  Primarily, students will practice becoming better readers, writers, and critical thinkers. In addition, students will gain understanding of twentieth and twenty-first Century literature and culture. Students will read/watch significant and representative works of world literature and cinema. Students will develop social responsibility by examining the ways literature engages social, national, and global issues. Students will develop methods and strategies for analyzing and interpreting texts. Students will respond critically to course material, using synthesis and analysis, in discussion and in written assignments. Students will write with clarity to communicate effectively, employing proper grammar, spelling, and punctuation in writing. Students will utilize sources and multi-media in class assignments. Students will demonstrate personal responsibility by employing correctly MLA format for primary and secondary sources.

**NOTE:** This is a READING, WRITING & PARTICIPATION **intensive** course. I will, however, provide help to those willing to seek it out, including extended office hours, pre-writing help, comments on drafts, etc. If you are not sure if you can keep up with the workload as presented in the schedule, let me encourage you that it *is* possible; if you are unwilling to keep up with the workload as presented in the schedule, you should consider dropping the course as early as possible, since I cannot drop you.

Much of our time will be spent speaking to one another about our common experience of reading fiction

and wondering about how to make the best sense of it. I want you to view yourselves as **active** readers and participants, and as people committed to improving their skills as readers and as writers. Since much of our time will be spent in active debate and conversation, I expect each student to behave professionally and respectfully in this setting, as well as in all communications that stem from your involvement in this course (i.e. emails, or study group activities).

**Requirements:**

**Analytical Essays:** You will write **four** analytical essays over issues related to the course readings (minimum **two FULL** pages). Essay prompts will be given in class for each analysis paper. Critical analysis is more than an opinion (I liked/didn’t like a reading or agreed/disagreed with a point). To be “critical” requires identifying the criteria that informs your judgment (explaining *why* you had that response). These essays give you a space to explore your reactions to the reading, discuss an element/theme you find intriguing, or ask questions about the text and/or its historical context. Use close textual analysis to illuminate your discussion. This assignment will be graded on the originality of your thought and the depth of analysis used to support your position.

**Fairytale Project:** For this assignment, you will create your own, original visual representation over one of the fairy tales we read. You may choose to examine the entire story or pick a particular theme, motif, or trace a character’s development and create a visual portrayal of your chosen subject. More details will be given in class.

**Short Answer Exams:** There will be a total of ten short answer exams given over two of the novels we read this semester: *The Book of Lost things* and *The Tiger’s Wife.* They will be given at the start of class on the day listed. You may NOT take the exam at an alternate time. The lowest grade will be dropped.

**Signature Essay Assignment:** Write a well-organized, effectively developed, 3-5-page analysis of at least one of the course texts. The paper should critically analyze the way the text engages a significant issue of social responsibility. Students should anchor the paper’s argument with a clearly articulated thesis statement and use careful analysis of textual evidence to support their claims.

**Exams**: You will have both a midterm exam (dealing with terms and passages from the first half of the course and an essay section) and a final exam (consisting of terms and passages from the second half of the course and an essay section).

**Class participation:** Class participation includes: attending class, reading all assigned material, and actively engaging in discussion with your fellow students and your instructor.  Students will be assigned small groups and a set of discussion questions to work with each week. Your class participation grade will be partly based on your participation in your small group.

**Grading: Fairytale Project 10% Short Answer Exams 10%**

**Analytical Essays 20% Mid-Term 15% Final Exam 20% Signature Essay 20% Class Participation 5%**

**Late Papers:** Late Research Projects that have not been cleared with me at least a week beforehand will lose one letter grade for every class period they are late. Late Analytical Essays will NOT be accepted.

**Attendance:** Class attendance is necessary for reading comprehension, group discussion, and preparation for exams and class assignments. It should also be noted that 5% of your final grade is based on your class participation. Therefore, it is important that you attend every class session regularly. Failure to do so will affect your participation grade. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to contact another student for an explanation of what was covered. I do understand that things come up during a semester. You have **5** absences to do with as you like—use them wisely for the inevitable "stuff" that will mess up your semester: illness, traffic, death of a loved one, etc. I DO NOT give excused absences. After 5 absences, you automatically receive a zero for your participation grade.

**Tardiness:** Be on time for class. Two tardies count as an absence.

**Classroom behavior.** Class sessions are short and require your full attention. All cell phones, pagers, iPods, MP3 players, laptops, and other electronic devices should be **turned off and put away when entering the classroom**; all earpieces should be removed. Store newspapers, crosswords, magazines, bulky bags, and other distractions so that you can concentrate on the readings and discussions each day. Bring book(s) and blackboard readings (heavily annotated and carefully read) to every class. Students are expected to participate respectfully in class, to listen to other class members, and to comment appropriately. I also expect consideration and courtesy from students. Professors are to be addressed appropriately and communicated with professionally.

**Odds and Ends**: The university sends all its correspondence to you via your UTA email address and so will I. It is your responsibility to check your UTA email account regularly.

**Drop Policy:** If you choose to withdraw from this course, you must follow university procedures. It is your responsibility to execute these procedures correctly, and within the university’s deadlines.

**Electronic Communication Policy.** All students must have access to a computer with internet capabilities. Students should check email daily for course information and updates. I will send group emails through MyMav. I am happy to communicate with students through email. However, I ask that you be wise in your use of this tool. Make sure you have consulted the syllabus for answers before you send me an email. Remember, I do not monitor my email 24 hours a day. I check it periodically during the school week and occasionally on the weekend.

The University of Texas at Arlington has adopted the University “MavMail” address as the sole official means of communication with students. MavMail is used to remind students of important deadlines, advertise events and activities, and permit the University to conduct official transactions exclusively by electronic means. For example, important information concerning registration, financial aid, payment of bills, and graduation are now sent to students through the MavMail system. All students are assigned a MavMail account. ***Students are responsible for checking their MavMail regularly.*** Information about activating and using MavMail is available at <http://www.uta.edu/oit/email/>. There is no additional charge to students for using this account, and it remains active even after they graduate from UT Arlington.

**Conferences and Questions:** I have three regularly scheduled office hours each week. These times are reserved for students to drop by or to make an appointment to discuss course assignments, grades, or other class-related concerns. I will be happy to make other appointment times for you if your class schedule conflicts with regular conference times or if I am not available on certain days. If you receive a grade on an assignment about which you have questions, please wait twenty-four hours before discussing it with me. This gives you time to process the assignment comments and to think about how your course work meets the requirements set forth for each assignment.

**The Writing** **Center**:The Writing Center, Room 411 in the Central Library, provides tutoring for any UTA student with a writing assignment. Writing Center tutors are carefully chosen and trained, and they can help students at any stage of their writing processes, from understanding an assignment to revising an early draft to polishing a final draft. However, the Writing Center is not an editing service; tutors will not correct students’ errors or rewrite the assignment for them, but tutors will help students become better editors of their own writing. Tutoring sessions last no longer than 30 minutes, and students are limited to one tutoring session a day and two sessions a week. Students can schedule Writing Center appointments by logging in to www.rich37.com/uta. During their first visit to the web site, students must complete a brief registration form. On subsequent visits, they can go directly to the schedule to make their appointments. Students who come to the Writing Center without an appointment are helped on a first-come, first-served basis as tutors become available.

**Americans with Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 93112 -- The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans With Disabilities Act - (ADA), pursuant to section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens. As faculty members, we are required by law to provide "reasonable accommodation" to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. Student responsibility primarily rests with informing faculty at the beginning of the semester and in providing authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.

**Academic Dishonesty:** It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.  
 "Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents’ Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3, Subsection 3.2, Subdivision 3.22)  
 If you are suspected of academic dishonesty, you may be called before the Vice President of Student Affairs to receive disciplinary action. Forms of academic dishonesty include:

Collusion – lending your work to another person to submit as her/his own Fabrication – deliberately creating false information on a works cited page Plagiarism – the presentation of another person’s work as your own, (intentional or not). Please acknowledge the source of any words, phrases, or ideas that you use. If you are not sure how to quote or paraphrase a source, please see me, go to the Writing Center, or check your handbook. Make sure that your written work is all your own.

**Course Schedule**

**NOTE:  Have the assigned texts read completely by the first day they are listed. Individual homework assignments and group work will be announced on a daily basis. This syllabus is subject to change; all changes will be announced in class.**

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| Date | Today’s Reading | Assignments Due |
| Thursday Aug. 27 | Course overview; Introduction to Fairy Tales |  |
| Tuesday Sept. 1 | *Little Red Riding Hood*  **Read:** “The Story of Grandmother” (10-11), “Little Red Riding Hood (11-13), “Little Red Cap” (13-16), “The Little Girl and The Wolf” (16-17), “Little Red Riding Hood and The Wolf (21-22)  “Hansel and Gretel” (184-190) |  |
| Thursday Sept. 3 | *Snow White*  **Read:** “Snow White” (83-89), “Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs” (96-100) |  |
| Tuesday Sept. 8 | *Beauty and The Beast*  **Read:** “Beauty and the Beast” (32-42), “The Tiger’s Bride” (50-66)  *Cinderella*  **Read:** “Donkeyskin”(109-116), “Cinderella” (117-122), “Cinderella” (127-131) | **Due:** Analysis Paper #1 |
| Thursday Sept. 10 | **Read:** “Bluebeard” (144-148), “The Bloody Chamber” (SR) |  |
| Tuesday Sept. 15 | **Introduction to Fantasy**  **Read:** *The Book of Lost Things*  Ch. 1-9 (1-89) | **Short Answer Exam 1**  **Due:** Analysis Paper #2 |
| Thursday Sept. 17 | **Read:** *The Book of Lost Things*  Ch. 10-14 (91-129) | **Short Answer Exam 2** |
| Tuesday Sept. 22 | **Read:** *The Book of Lost Things*  Ch. 14-20 (131-201) | **Short Answer Exam 3**  **Due:** Analysis Paper #3 |
| Thursday Sept. 24 | **Read:** *The Book of Lost Things*  Ch. 21-24 (203-242) |  |
| Tuesday Sept. 29 | **Read:** *The Book of Lost Things*  Ch. 25-29 (243-301) | **Short Answer Exam 4** |
| Thursday Oct. 1 | **Read:** *The Book of Lost Things* Ch. 30-33 (303-339 | **Short Answer Exam 5** |
| Tuesday Oct. 6 | *Stardust* | **Due:** Analysis Paper #4 |
| Thursday Oct. 8 | *Stardust* |  |
| Tuesday Oct. 13 | **Mid-Term Prep** | **Due:** Fairy Tale Project |
| Thursday Oct. 15 | Mid-Term |  |
| Tuesday Oct. 20 | **Introduction to Magical Realism**  **Read:** “Scheherazade’s Children” (SR)  “A Very Old Man With Enormous Wings” (SR) |  |
| Thursday Oct. 22 | **Read:** “Light is Like Water” (SR)  “My Life with the Wave” (SR) | **Due:** Analysis Paper #5 |
| Tuesday Oct. 27 | **Read:** Haruki Murakami “The Elephant Vanishes” (SR) | **Due:** Analysis Paper #6 |
| Thursday Oct. 29 | *The Tiger’s Wife*  **Read:** Introduction, Ch. 1-2 (3-80) | **Short Answer Exam 6** |
| Tuesday Nov. 3 | *The Tiger’s Wife*  **Read:** Ch. 3-6 (80-189) | **Short Answer Exam 7** |
| Thursday Nov. 5 | *The Tiger’s Wife*  **Read:** Ch. 7 (190-228) | **Short Answer Exam 8** |
| Tuesday Nov. 10 | *The Tiger’s Wife*  **Read:** Ch. 8-11 (229-302) | **Short Answer Exam 9** |
| Thursday Nov. 12 | *The Tiger’s Wife*  **Read:**Ch. 12- Conclusion (303-338) | **Short Answer Exam 10** |
| Tuesday Nov. 17 | *Beasts of the Southern Wild* | **Due:** Analysis Paper #7 |
| Thursday Nov. 19 | *Beasts of the Southern Wild* |  |
| Tuesday Nov. 24 | Writing Conferences | **Due:** Analysis Paper #8 |
| Thursday Nov. 26 | Thanksgiving |  |
| Tuesday Dec. 1 | *The Alchemist*  (Prologue and Pages 3-61) |  |
| Thursday Dec. 3 | *The Alchemist*  (61-104) |  |
| Tuesday Dec. 8 | *The Alchemist*  (104-167) | **Due:** Signature Assignment Essay |
| TBA | Final Exam | **Due:** Analysis Paper #9 |