

**Latvian Academy of Culture
COURSE FOR ERASMUS STUDENTS**

<i>Course</i>	English Children's Literature		
<i>Credit points</i>	4		
<i>ECTS credits</i>	6		
<i>Amount of hours in classroom</i>	32		
<i>Area of studies</i>	English Studies: English Literature, Text Interpretation		
<i>Department</i>	The Department of Cross-cultural Communication		
<i>Author of the Course</i>			
Assistant Professor Elina Veinberga, Mg. philol., Dr.art. (PhD)			
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<i>Level of the English language necessary for participating in the Course</i>			
At least Intermediate or Independent User – level B1 according to the Common European Framework			
<i>Summary of the Course</i>			
<p>The objective of the course is to provide an insight into Children's Literature and its most important developments in British literature, and to touch upon the same traits in North American Children's Literature. The course deals with the fundamental issues of Children's Literature: stages in the historical development of children's literature, didacticism, representation of ideology and its subversion as well as different types of fantasy. The students become aware of nonsense literature and the importance of language, stereotyping, the theme of quest and rite of passage and historical, novel in children's literature. During the classes the students discuss different themes including taboo themes and their presence in children's literature, as well as animal stories and animal characters. The students give presentations on their chosen themes within the framework of the course. Another objective of the course is to persist on broadening of the practical knowledge and skills of the English language.</p>			
<i>Plan of workshops</i>			
<i>Theme</i>	<i>Week</i>	<i>Type of class and hours</i>	<i>Lecturers</i>
1. Introduction. Children's literature, children and adults. Children's literature as a separate literary category. Characteristics, differences between books for children and adults.	1.	Workshop 2	Assistant Professor Elina Veinberga
2. Stages in the historical development of	2.	Workshop	Assistant Professor

children's literature. The formal aspects and functions of children's literature.		2	<i>Elina Veinberga</i>
3. Didacticism, representation of ideology and its subversion in children's books. The text and the reader.	3.	<i>Workshop</i> 2	<i>Assistant Professor</i> <i>Elina Veinberga</i>
4. The genres of children's literature. The role of fantasy in children's literature. Types of fantasy. A. A. Milne <i>Winnie-the-Pooh</i> .	4.	<i>Workshop</i> 2	<i>Assistant Professor</i> <i>Elina Veinberga</i>
5. Nonsense. Lewis Carroll <i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i> . The importance of language in children's literature.	5.	<i>Workshop</i> 2	<i>Assistant Professor</i> <i>Elina Veinberga</i>
6. Realism and fantasy. F. H. Burnett <i>The Secret Garden</i> .	6.	<i>Workshop</i> 2	<i>Assistant Professor</i> <i>Elina Veinberga</i>
7. Domestic tale. Stereotyping in children's literature. L. M. Montgomery <i>Anne of Green Gables</i> . L. I. Wilder <i>The Little House on the Prairie</i> .	7.	<i>Workshop</i> 2 2	<i>Assistant Professor</i> <i>Elina Veinberga</i>
8. The fairy-tale and children's literature. C. S. Lewis <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe</i> . E. Nesbit <i>Five Children and It</i> .	8.	<i>Workshop</i> 2	<i>Assistant Professor</i> <i>Elina Veinberga</i>
9. Themes in children's literature. The theme of quest and rite of passage. U. K. Le Guin <i>A Wizard of Earthsea</i> . J. R. R. Tolkien <i>The Hobbit or There and Back Again</i> .	9.	<i>Workshop</i> 2	<i>Assistant Professor</i> <i>Elina Veinberga</i>
10. Adventure story. Children and society. Mark Twain <i>The Adventures of Tom Sawyer</i> .	10.	<i>Workshop</i> 2	<i>Assistant Professor</i> <i>Elina Veinberga</i>
11. Historical novel. G. Trease <i>Cue for Treason</i> . P. Lively <i>The Ghost of Thomas Kempe</i> .	11.	<i>Workshop</i> 2	<i>Assistant Professor</i> <i>Elina Veinberga</i>
12. Taboo themes and their presence in children's literature. J. M. Barrie: <i>Peter Pan</i> .	12.	<i>Workshop</i> 2	<i>Assistant Professor</i> <i>Elina Veinberga</i>
13. Animal stories. Animal characters. E. B. White <i>Charlotte's Web</i> . K. Graham <i>The Wind in the Willows</i> . B. Potter <i>The Tale of Peter Rabbit</i> .	13.	<i>Workshop</i> 2	<i>Assistant Professor</i> <i>Elina Veinberga</i>
14. Picture books and their characteristics. A picture and the written word. Accepted codes. Poetry for children: tradition and the newest developments.	14.	<i>Workshop</i> 2	<i>Assistant Professor</i> <i>Elina Veinberga</i>
15. Presentations on the chosen themes.	15.	<i>Workshop</i> 2	<i>Assistant Professor</i> <i>Elina Veinberga</i>
16. Final Test (written).	16.	<i>Workshop</i> 2	<i>Assistant Professor</i> <i>Elina Veinberga</i>
<i>Requirements for ECTS credits</i>			
During the term: regular attendance of classes and workshops and successful performance of presentation on one of the chosen themes. At the end of the course: a positive mark in the Final Test.			
<i>Supplementary Bibliography</i>			
<i>Handouts of compulsory material will be sent electronically by e-mail or given for each</i>			

workshop.

Recommended Theoretical Sources

1. Alston, Ann. 2008. *The Family in English Children's Literature*. London and New York: Routledge.
2. Cadden, Mike. 2005. *Ursula K. Le Guin: Beyond Genre Fiction for Children and Adults*. London and New York: Routledge.
3. Falconer, Rachel. [2008] 2009. *The Crossover Novel: Contemporary Children's Fiction and Its Adult Readership*. London and New York: Routledge.
4. Galway, Elizabeth, A. 2008. *From Nursery Rhymes to Nationhood: Children's Literature and the Construction of Canadian Identity*. London and New York: Routledge.
5. Grenby, M. O., Immel, Andrea, editors. 2010. *The Cambridge Companion to Children's Literature*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
6. Hunt, Peter. [1991] 1995. *Criticism, Theory and Children's Literature*. Oxford UK and Cambridge USA: Blackwell.
7. Hunt, Peter (ed.). 1995. *Children's Literature: An Illustrated History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
8. Hunt, Peter. [1994] 1996. *An Introduction to Children's Literature*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
9. Hunt, Peter, (ed.). [1999] 2005. *Understanding Children's Literature*. London and New York: Routledge.
10. Knowles, Murray and Malmkjær, Kirsten. [1996] 2006. *Language and Control in Children's Literature*. London and New York: Routledge.
11. Mackey, Margaret. 1998. *The Case of Peter Rabbit: Changing Conditions of Literature for Children*. London and New York: Garland Publishing, I N C.
12. Silvey, Anita, editor. 2002. *The Essential Guide to Children's Books and Their Creators*. Boston and New York: Houghton Mifflin Company.

Essential Reading list

Any unabridged edition of:

1. Milne, Alan Alexander. *Winnie-the-Pooh* or *The House at Pooh Corner*.
2. Carroll, Lewis (Dodgson, Charles, Lutwidge) *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* or *Through the Looking-Glass*.
3. Burnett, Frances, Eliza, Hodgson. *The Secret Garden*.
4. Montgomery, Lucy, Maud. *Anne of Green Gables* or any other of *Anne* series.
5. Wilder Ingalls, Laura. *Little House on the Prairie* or any other of the *Little House* books.
6. Lewis, Clive, Staples. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* or any other of *The Chronicles of Narnia* series.
7. Nesbit, Edith. *Five Children and It* or any other of the *Psammead* series.
8. Le Guin, Ursula, Kroeber. *A Wizard of Earthsea* or any other of the *Earthsea* series.
9. Tolkien, John, Ronald, Reuel. *The Hobbit* or *There and Back Again* or any other of his fantasy fiction books, published during his lifetime, for the exception of *The Lord of the Rings*.
10. Trease, Geoffrey. *Cue for Treason* or any other of his historical novels for children featuring British history.
11. Lively, Penelope. *The Ghost of Thomas Kempe*.
12. Barrie, James, Matthew. *Peter Pan*.
13. Grahame, Kenneth. *The Wind in the Willows*.

14. Potter, Helen, Beatrix. *The Tale of Peter Rabbit* or any other of her animal tales.

Internet sources:

<http://discovery.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>

<http://www.bl.uk/>

<http://urweb.roehampton.ac.uk/digital-collection/childrens-literature-collection/>

<https://www.lib.umn.edu/clrc>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk>

<http://www.ukchildrensbooks.co.uk/>

<http://www.wordpool.co.uk/>

http://www.gutenberg.org/wiki/Main_Page