

**CMLT 3250 -- Children's Literature**

Dr. Katarzyna Jerzak

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Office hours: Thursday 4pm-5pm and by appointment

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This course is not what you expect. It is not easy. It is not even fun. It will tackle some of the most difficult, painful, and at times ungrateful topics there are: orphanhood, loneliness, death. It will also deal with some of the most difficult, beautiful and worthwhile topics: parenthood, childhood, love. We will be reading more than you expect and we will not watch any Disney films. The course will spill into your life and your life will spill into the course. It will get messy. If you have issues – and who doesn't have issues? – they will be brought to the table. If you have parents – you can be sure they will be involved. If you think you don't want to have children, just a nice loft in Manhattan and lots of shoes – you may have to change your mind. If you usually sell your books back to the bookstore – don't.

May 15 TU Introduction and Janusz Korczak's "Children's Rights"

May 16 WED "Beauty and the Beast" –pp. 25-73 in *The Classic Fairy Tales* plus Bruno Bettelheim "The Struggle for Meaning" (*The Classic Fairy Tales*, pp. 269-273)

May 17 TH "Snow White" – pp. 74-100 in *The Classic Fairy Tales* plus Adorno handout, and "Cinderella" in *The Classic Fairy Tales*, pp. 101-137

May 18 FRI "Bluebeard" and "Hansel and Gretel" (pp. 138-211 in *CFT*)

May 21 MON Oscar Wilde's fairy tales (pp. 246-265 in *CFT*)

May 22 TU Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, *The Little Prince*

May 23 WED J.M. Barrie *Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens*

May 24 TH Albert Cohen, *The Book of my Mother* **MIDTERM PAPER DUE**

May 25 FRI Juan Ramón Jiménez, *Platero and I*

May 28 MON Janusz Korczak, *King Matt the First*

May 29 TU Janusz Korczak, *Ghetto Diary*

May 30 WED Henryk Grynberg, *Children of Zion and Birthplace* (documentary shown in class)

May 31 TH Tove Jansson, *Tales from Moominvalley*

June 1 FRI Tove Jansson *Summer Book*

June 4 MON Conclusion

\* It is academically dishonest to do the *Red and Black* crossword puzzle in class. The only *Red and Black* allowed on your desks in class is by Stendhal. It is also academically dishonest to be present in class only in body while your soul grazes other pastures.

\* Grading: one short paper (2 pages) will constitute 30% of the final grade. Active participation in the discussions and the oral presentation will count for another 30%. The final comparative paper (5 pages) will count for 40%. There will be pop-up quizzes if the instructor notices that the students are not keeping up with the reading. The grades for those will count as part of the participation grade.

All academic work must meet the standards contained in *A Culture of Honesty*.

Information about academic honesty can be found at:

<http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm>

\* Attendance Policy. You must come to class most of the time. That means that you don't have to come to class if you have a fever, if your boy/girlfriend broke up with you or if the day is so unbearably beautiful that you cannot possibly bring yourself to come near an academic building. Students who will miss more than 3 classes will not get credit for the course.

#### **Texts required for the course:**

1. Juan Ramon Jimenez, *Platero and I* (Dover, ISBN 0486435652)
2. Tove Jansson, *Summer Book* (Sort of Books, ISBN 0954221710)
3. Antoine de Saint-Exupery, *The Little Prince* (Harcourt, ISBN 0156012197)
4. J.M. Barrie, *Peter Pan in Kensington Gardens* (Oxford, ISBN 0192839292)
5. Janusz Korczak, *King Matt the First* (Algonquin Books, ISBN 1565124421)
6. Albert Cohen, *The Book of My Mother* (UNESCO, ISBN 9231033956) – also available as a reprint from Baxter Street Bookstore
7. Tove Jansson, *Tales from Moominvalley* (Sunburst, ISBN 0374474133)
8. Janusz Korczak, *Ghetto Diary* (Yale UP 0300097425)
9. Henryk Grynberg, *Children of Zion* (Northwestern UP 0810113546)
10. *Classic Fairy Tales*, Norton (ISBN: 0393972771)

\*The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary. Aberrations may not be necessary but may occur.