

ENGL 244
 CHILDREN'S
 LITERATURE
 2007 / Trimester 2

COURSE ORGANISATION

Course co-ordinators

Dr Anna Jackson	VZ 918	ext. 6840
Dr Geoff Miles	VZ 915	ext. 6809
A/P Harry Ricketts	VZ 906	ext. 6814
Dr Tatjana Schaefer	VZ 917	ext. 6802

Staff e-mail: Use the following formula: Forename.Surname@vuw.ac.nz

Class times and places

Lecture theatre: HM 206

Lecture times: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, 3.10–4 pm

Tutorials: to be announced (see below)

Tutorials

Tutorials will be held once a week from the second week of the trimester. Tutorial sign-up will take place in lectures in week 1; tutorial lists will then be posted on the English noticeboard (in the foyer outside HM 206) and on Blackboard.

Further information

Additional information or notification of changes will be provided in lectures and tutorials and posted on the English noticeboard (outside HM 206). If you have a question or a problem, you should consult your tutor or one of the course coordinators. If you miss a handout in a lecture, spare copies will be available from your tutor.

COURSE CONTENT

Aims and objectives

The course introduces the study of children's literature through a selection of four classic fantasy sequences—all ambitious, large-scale works with strongly ideological (and often religious or metaphysical) themes. By the end of the course you should:

1. be familiar with all the set texts;
2. show ability to critically analyse the texts whether in the form of a passage or as a complete work;
3. be able to draw out literary, philosophical and social assumptions that underlie the texts;

4. appreciate both the features they have in common and their distinctive characteristics;
5. be able to consider these texts generically—as examples of “fantasy” and “writing for children”.

Set texts (in order of teaching)

ENGL244 Course Book (Student Notes), C.S. Lewis, *Chronicles of Narnia* (Collins); Ursula Le Guin, *The Earthsea Quartet*, *The Other Wind* (Penguin); Diana Wynne Jones, *Charmed Life*, *The Lives of Christopher Chant*, *The Magicians of Caprona*, *Witch Week* (Harper Collins); Philip Pullman, *Northern Lights* [*The Golden Compass*], *The Subtle Knife*, *The Amber Spyglass* (Scholastic).

In addition to these texts, all students of English should have the *Guidelines for SEFT Students* and *Handbook for Students of English Literature* (both available on Blackboard and the school website <<http://www.vuw.ac.nz/seft>>).

RECOMMENDED WORKLOAD

For a 22-point course at 200-level, it is recommended that you spend on average **15** hours per week **including class contact hours**. You should therefore spend about **11** hours of your own time in reading and preparation.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Written Work

Satisfactory completion of the class test and the two in-term essays.

Attendance

As for all ENGL courses, there is a tutorial attendance requirement. From time to time there may be circumstances (such as illness) that preclude your attendance. In ENGL 249 we regard the 70% mandatory requirement (i.e. 8 out of 11 tutorials) as making provision for such circumstances. If illness or the like affects more than three tutorials, you should explain the reasons to your tutor—who may register you as having been excused.

Tutorial Preparation

For most tutorials, you will be required to prepare by reading the relevant set text, and completing a worksheet. These will be handed out to you in an Assignment File. In order to meet the mandatory requirement, you will need to show the completed worksheet at the tutorial specified. As with attendance, a 70% rule will apply. **Late submissions are generally unacceptable**. For extensions contact your tutor.

ASSESSMENT

This course combines internal assessment (50% of the final mark) and a three-hour final examination (50%).

In-term work

1. **Class Test** (10%). This will be held in the lecture hour on **Thursday 2 August**. The test will focus on the works of C.S. Lewis. More information on the format of

the test will be supplied in lectures and tutorials in the week prior to the test. This addresses objective 1 above.

2. **Critical Analysis Exercise (20%).** Due **Monday 10 September.** A 1500-2000-word discussion of any one of the passages incorporated in the tutorial worksheets relating to Ursula Le Guin. Presentation should follow the rules set out in *School of English, Film and Theatre: Guidelines for SEFT Students*. **Please note that you will not receive any further formal notice of this exercise.** This addresses objectives 2 and 3 above.
3. **Essay (20%).** Due **Monday 1 October.** 1500-2000 words. Topics will be distributed in **week 7.** You will be required to write on Diana Wynne Jones and *either* C.S. Lewis *or* Ursula Le Guin. This addresses all the objectives above.

Final examination (50%)

This will take place during the exam period (19 October – 10 November). The paper will be divided into three compulsory sections. There will be some choice within each. This addresses all of the objectives above.

1. Essay on the works of Philip Pullman (30% of exam)
2. Critical analysis of passages from a range of texts (30% of exam)
3. Essay on a general topic, drawing on a range of authors (40% of exam)

Due dates and extensions

- If you need to arrange an alternative time for the test, or to apply for an extension beyond the due date for the exercise or essay, you should fill out the relevant form (included in your Assignment File), and deliver it to your tutor at least 24 hours beforehand. Work submitted when an extension has been granted will be graded in the normal way.
- Work submitted late without an extension will be counted, as long as it is received by Friday 12 October. You will however be penalized by a lowering of the grade by one step (eg B to B-).

Keeping copies of your written work

In a large course such as this, written work does sometimes go astray. For your own protection, please retain a second copy of your essay when you hand it in.

Return of written work

Work that has been handed in on time will normally be marked within two weeks. Your tutor will generally return your work in a tutorial. Uncollected tests and essays may be claimed from the administrator (VZ 809A) until the end of the academic year.

Further information

Some course resources and course materials can be found on Blackboard, where any important announcements will also be posted.

SECONDARY READINGS

Check Course Reserve on the VUW library catalogue and your Course Book.

General University policies and statutes

Students should familiarise themselves with the University's policies and statutes, particularly the Assessment Statute, the Personal Courses of Study Statute, the Statute on Student Conduct and any statutes relating to the particular qualifications being studied; see the Victoria University Calendar available in hard copy or under 'About Victoria' on the VUW home page at www.victoria.ac.nz.

Student and staff conduct

The Statute on Student Conduct together with the Policy on Staff Conduct ensure that members of the University community are able to work, learn, study and participate in the academic and social aspects of the University's life in an atmosphere of safety and respect. The Statute on Student Conduct contains information on what conduct is prohibited and what steps are to be taken if there is a complaint. For information about complaint procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct, contact the Facilitator and Disputes Advisor or refer to the statute on the VUW policy website at:

www.victoria.ac.nz/policy/studentconduct

The Policy on Staff Conduct can be found on the VUW website at:

www.victoria.ac.nz/policy/staffconduct

Academic grievances

If you have any academic problems with your course you should talk to the tutor or lecturer concerned; class representatives may be able to help you in this. If you are not satisfied with the result of that meeting, see the Head of School or the relevant Associate Dean; VUWSA Education Coordinators are available to assist in this process. If, after trying the above channels, you are still unsatisfied, formal grievance procedures can be invoked. These are set out in the Academic Grievance Policy which is published on the VUW website at:

www.victoria.ac.nz/policy/academicgrievances

Academic integrity and plagiarism

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means *no cheating*. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as follows:

The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning,
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course,
- suspension from the course or the University.

Find out more about plagiarism, and how to avoid it, on the University's website:

www.victoria.ac.nz/home/studying/plagiarism.html

Students with Impairments (see Appendix 3 of the Assessment Handbook)

The University has a policy of reasonable accommodation of the needs of students with disabilities. The policy aims to give students with disabilities the same opportunity as other students to demonstrate their abilities. If you have a disability, impairment or chronic medical condition (temporary, permanent or recurring) that may impact on your ability to participate, learn and/or achieve in lectures and tutorials or in meeting the course requirements, please contact the course coordinator as early in the course as possible. Alternatively, you may wish to approach a Student Adviser from Disability Support Services (DSS) to discuss your individual needs and the available options and support on a confidential basis. DSS are located on Level 1, Robert Stout Building:

telephone: 463-6070

email: disability@vuw.ac.nz

The School's Disability Liaison Person is the administrator (VZ 809A)

Student Support

Staff at Victoria want students to have positive learning experiences at the University. Each faculty has a designated staff member who can either help you directly if your academic progress is causing you concern, or quickly put you in contact with someone who can. In the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences the support contacts are **Dr Allison Kirkman, Murphy Building, room 407** and **Dr Stuart Brock, Murphy Building, room 312**. Assistance for specific groups is also available from the Kaiwawao Māori, Manaaki Pihipihinga or Victoria International.

Manaaki Pihipihinga Programme

This programme offers:

- Academic mentoring for all Māori & Pacific students at all levels of undergraduate study for the faculties of Commerce & Administration and Humanities & Social Sciences. Contact Manaaki-Pihipihinga-Programme@vuw.ac.nz or phone 463 6015 to register for Humanities & Social Science mentoring and 463 8977 to register for mentoring for Commerce and Administration courses
- Postgraduate support network for the above faculties, which links students into all of the post grad activities and workshops on campus and networking opportunities
- Pacific Support Coordinator who can assist Pacific students with transitional issues, disseminate useful information and provide any assistance needed to help students achieve. Contact; Pacific-Support-Coord@vuw.ac.nz or phone 463 5842.

Manaaki Pihipihinga is located at: 14 Kelburn Parade, back court yard, Room 109 D (for Humanities mentoring & some first year Commerce mentoring) or Room 210 level 2 west wing railway station Pipitea (commerce mentoring space). Māori Studies mentoring is done at the marae.

Student Services

In addition, the Student Services Group (email: student-services@vuw.ac.nz) is available to provide a variety of support and services. Find out more at:

www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/

VUWSA employs Education Coordinators who deal with academic problems and provide support, advice and advocacy services, as well as organising class representatives and faculty delegates. The Education Office (tel. 463-6983 or 463-6984, email at education@vuwsa.org.nz) is located on the ground floor, Student Union Building.

LECTURE PROGRAMME

(Mon, Wed, Thu 3.10-4pm / HMLT 206)

AJ Anna Jackson GM Geoff Miles HR Harry Ricketts TS Tatjana Schaefer

1	Mon 9 July	Introduction (ALL)
	Wed 11 July	Fantasy (GM/HR)
	Thu 12 July	Children's Literature (AJ)
2	Mon 16 July	Lewis 1: Introduction (HR)
	Wed 18 July	Lewis 2: <i>The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe</i> (HR)
	Thu 19 July	Lewis 3: <i>The Magician's Nephew</i> (AJ)
3	Mon 23 July	Lewis 4: <i>The Last Battle</i> (HR)
	Wed 25 July	Lewis 5: Allegory or myth (HR)
	Thu 26 July	Lewis 6: Talking animals (AJ)
4	Mon 30 July	Lewis 7: Critiquing Lewis (HR)
	Wed 1 August	Lewis 8: Lewis on Film (ALL)
	Thu 2 August	CLASS TEST on CS Lewis
5	Mon 6 August	Guest Speaker
	Wed 8 August	Le Guin 1: Introduction (GM)
	Thu 9 August	Le Guin 2: World-building, language, magic (GM)
6	Mon 13 August	Le Guin 3: <i>A Wizard of Earthsea</i> (GM)
	Wed 15 August	Le Guin 4: <i>The Tombs of Atuan</i> (GM)
	Thu 16 August	Le Guin 5: <i>The Farthest Shore</i> (GM)
<hr/> Mid-trimester break <hr/>		
7	Mon 3 September	Le Guin 6: <i>Tehanu</i> – Le Guin critiquing Le Guin (GM)
	Wed 5 September	Le Guin 7: <i>The Other Wind</i> (GM)
	Thu 6 September	Guest Speaker
8	Mon 10 September	Jones 1: Intro (All) EXERCISE DUE
	Wed 12 September	Jones 2: <i>Charmed Life</i> (GM)
	Thu 13 September	Jones 3: <i>The Lives of Christopher Chant</i> (AJ)
9	Mon 17 September	Jones 4: <i>The Magicians of Caprona</i> (TS)
	Wed 19 September	Jones 5: <i>Witch Week</i> (HR)
	Thu 20 September	The difficulty of Children's Literature (ALL)
10	Mon 24 September	Children's Literature on Film (ALL)
	Wed 26 September	Pullman 1: Introduction (AJ)
	Thu 27 September	Pullman 2: <i>Northern Lights</i> (AJ)
11	Mon 1 October	Pullman 3: <i>The Subtle Knife</i> (AJ) ESSAY DUE
	Wed 3 October	Pullman 4: <i>The Amber Spyglass</i> (AJ)
	Thu 4 October	Pullman 5: Pullman and Lewis (HR & Tristan Clark)
12	Mon 8 October	Pullman 6: Critiquing Pullman (AJ)
	Wed 10 October	Alternative worlds (ALL)
	Thu 11 October	Conclusions (ALL)