

ENGL244 Children's Literature

Trimester 2 2009

22 Points

TRIMESTER DATES

Teaching dates: 13 July to 16 October 2009

Study week: 19 to 23 October 2009

Examination/Assessment period: 27 October to 15 November 2009

Note: Students who enrol in courses with examinations are expected to be able to attend an examination at the University at any time during the formal examination period.

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Course Co-ordinators:

Dr Anna Jackson	VZ 918	ext. 6840
Dr Geoff Miles	VZ 915	ext. 6809
Dr Tatjana Schaefer	VZ 917	ext. 6802
A/P Kathryn Walls	VZ916	ext. 6898

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

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Lecture times: 4.10-5pm, Monday, Wednesday and Thursday

Lecture theatre: EA006

Tutorials: to be announced (see below)

COURSE DELIVERY

In addition to the three weekly lectures, students are expected to join a tutorial group. Tutorials will be held once a week from the second week of the trimester. Tutorial sign-up will take place in the first week of lectures. Tutorial lists will then be posted on the English noticeboard (in the foyer outside HM 206) and on Blackboard.

COURSE CONTENT

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.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

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”.

EXPECTED 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.

READINGS***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); Maurice Gee, *The Halfmen of O*, *The Priests of Ferris*, *Motherstone* (Penguin); Philip Pullman, *Northern Lights* [*The Golden Compass*], *The Subtle Knife*, *The Amber Spyglass* (Scholastic).

Secondary reading:

The Course Book includes relevant secondary material and a list of further reading.

Note: For the first two weeks of trimester all undergraduate textbooks and student notes will be sold from the Memorial Theatre foyer, while postgraduate textbooks and student notes will be available from the top floor of VicBooks in the Student Union Building, Kelburn Campus. After week two all undergraduate textbooks will be sold from VicBooks and student notes from the Student Notes Distribution Centre on the ground floor of the Student Union Building. You can order textbooks and student notes online at www.vicbooks.co.nz or can email an order or enquiry to enquiries@vicbooks.co.nz. Books can be couriered to you or they can be picked up from the shop. You will be contacted when they are available.

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS

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 6 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 14 September**. A 1500-2000-word comparative discussion of two passages from Ursula Le Guin texts. There will be a choice of five passages, of which students choose 2 for comparison. The passages are at the end of your Assignment File. **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 **Wednesday 30 September**. 1500-2000 words. Topics will be included in the Assignment File. You will be required to write on Maurice Gee 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 (27 October to 15 November 2009). 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)

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 244 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**

PENALTIES AND EXTENSIONS

If work is handed in late, then one grade is subtracted and no comments are offered.

Extensions

If you require an extension or an alternative time to sit the test, you must complete an extension request form (available on Blackboard and in the Assignment File) prior to the assignment due date or the test date. This must be accompanied by relevant

documentation (e.g. a doctor's certificate) where appropriate. Extension requests must be submitted to the Course Co-ordinator. Tutors cannot grant extensions.

ASSIGNMENT COVER SHEETS

Assignment cover sheets and extension forms can be found on Blackboard or outside the Programme office (VZ level 8). Remember to fill in your tutor's name.

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.

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.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information or notification of changes will be provided in lectures and tutorials and posted on the English notice-board (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.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity means that university staff and students, in their teaching and learning are expected to treat others honestly, fairly and with respect at all times. It is not acceptable to mistreat academic, intellectual or creative work that has been done by other people by representing it as your own original work.

Academic integrity is important because it is the core value on which the University's learning, teaching and research activities are based. Victoria University's reputation for academic integrity adds value to your qualification.

The University defines plagiarism as presenting someone else's work as if it were your own, whether you mean to or not. 'Someone else's work' means anything that is not your own idea. Even if it is presented in your own style, you must acknowledge your sources fully and appropriately. This includes:

- Material from books, journals or any other printed source
- The work of other students or staff
- Information from the internet
- Software programs and other electronic material
- Designs and ideas
- The organisation or structuring of any such material

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

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/study/plagiarism.aspx>

GENERAL UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND STATUTES

You 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 or go to the Academic Policy and Student Policy sections on: <http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/policy>

The AVC (Academic) website also provides information in a number of areas including Academic Grievances, Student and Staff conduct, Meeting the needs of students with impairments, and student support/VUWSA student advocates. This website can be accessed at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/avcacademic/Publications.aspx>

COURSE PROGRAMME

1	Mon 13 July	Introduction	
	Wed 15 July	Fantasy	
	Thur 16 July	Children's Literature	
2	Mon 20 July	Lewis 1: Introduction	
	Wed 22 July	Lewis 2: <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe/Prince Caspian</i>	
	Thur 23 July	Lewis 3: <i>The Magician's Nephew</i>	
3	Mon 27 July	Lewis 4: <i>The Last Battle</i>	
	Wed 29 July	Lewis 5: Allegory or myth	
	Thur 30 July	Lewis 6: Talking animals	
4	Mon 3 August	Lewis 7: Critiquing Lewis	
	Wed 5 August	Lewis 8: Lewis on Film	
	Thur 6 August	CLASS TEST on CS Lewis	
5	Mon 10 August	Guest Speaker	
	Wed 12 August	Le Guin 1: Introduction	
	Thurs 13 August	Le Guin 2: World-building, language, magic	
6	Mon 17 August	Le Guin 3: <i>A Wizard of Earthsea</i>	
	Wed 19 August	Le Guin 4: <i>The Tombs of Atuan</i>	
	Thur 20 August	Le Guin 5: <i>The Farthest Shore</i>	
		Mid-trimester break	
7	Mon 7 September	Le Guin 6: <i>Tehanu</i> – Le Guin critiquing Le Guin	
	Wed 9 September	Le Guin 7: <i>The Other Wind</i>	
	Thur 10 September	The difficulty of Children's Literature	
8	Mon 14 September	Gee 1: Life and Influences	EXERCISE DUE
	Wed 16 September	Gee 2: Gee and Lewis	
	Thur 17 September	Gee 3: Contradictions	
9	Mon 21 September	Gee 4: "Psychic growth" in <i>Halfmen of O</i>	
	Wed 23 September	Gee 5: <i>The Priests of Ferris</i>	
	Thur 24 September	Gee 6: History in <i>Motherstone</i>	
10	Mon 28 September	Children's Literature: Romanticism and Modernity	
	Wed 30 September	Pullman 1: The power of a story	ESSAY DUE
	Thur 1 October	Pullman 2: Pullman and Milton	
11	Mon 5 October	Pullman 3: Pullman and genre	
	Wed 7 October	Pullman 4: the child and the child reader	
	Thur 8 October	Pullman 5: Theology and science 1	
12	Mon 12 October	Pullman 6: Theology and science 2	
	Wed 14 October	Pullman 7: Pullman on Lewis, critics on Pullman	
	Thur 16 October	Conclusions	