

## HIST 395: Cultural Studies in Children's Literature Spring 2011

Class Hours: Tuesday and Thursday, 10:30-11:45 am, UNIV 319

Contact Details for Professor Bhattacharya:

Office: University Hall 309

Office Hours: Tuesday and Thursday 12:00 noon-1:00 pm and by appointment

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The **Course Packet** is available at **COPYMAT** at 135 S Chauncey Ave  
West Lafayette, IN 47906, Phone: (765) 743-5995

Several of the readings are available on JSTOR. The URL for that database is  
[www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org)

Handouts:

All handouts will be posted on Blackboard, unless otherwise specified. You are responsible for having a **printed hard copy** of each handout in class with you during lectures.

Policy on Absences

1. All students are expected to attend ALL classes
2. If you are absent from class for an excused reason (other than official university business), you may make up work from that day. Excused absences include doctor's appointments, medical emergencies, family events such as weddings and funerals, job interviews. In order to be excused you must present DOCUMENTATION supporting the above reasons. I strongly advise you to contact me prior to class for your absence to be excused even on the above grounds. You may do this by phone, email, or in person.
3. Attendance will be taken EVERYDAY. You may have **three** absences, whether excused or unexcused without penalty. All non-school-related absences will result in the loss of one point from the final grade.
4. If you miss class and/or an assignment you absolutely must contact me to set up an appointment to make up the missed assignment. Please remember it is YOUR responsibility to set up the meeting to make up for missed work.

Assignments

You are expected to finish the weekly readings prior to the lecture. Your grades will be based on the following:

Class Attendance and Participation	<b>20%</b>
Reaction Papers 20x2	<b>40%</b>
Final Paper	<b>40%</b>

Policy on Academic Dishonesty

Purdue University's Official Academic Dishonesty Policy is applicable to **all** assignments and papers in this course. **Any** instances of cheating or plagiarism, however slight, on **any** assignment or paper will result automatically in a failing grade for the **ENTIRE** course and referral to the Dean of Students for further disciplinary action. If you have any confusion on this matter please visit the Online Writing Lab on the web for their useful handout on plagiarism.

**You are always welcome to consult me about your all your assignments.**

Grades

91-100 (A)

86-90 (A minus)

76-85 (B)

71-75 (B minus)

61-70 (C)

56-60 (C minus)

41-55 (D)

0-40 (F)

It is possible that this syllabus will change over the course of the semester. Such changes would be announced in class and in time to benefit rather than inconvenience students. Students are individually responsible for learning about any changes in the schedule even if they are absent from class the day a change is announced. In general, students are individually responsible for everything that transpires in class whether or not they are in class; absence is not an excuse.

**Tentative Weekly Schedule****Week 1: January 11- 13 What is Children's Literature Anyway?**

Lawrence A. Hirschfeld, "Why Don't Anthropologists Like Children?" *American Anthropologist*, New Series, Vol. 104, No. 2 (Jun., 2002), pp. 611-627

Available on [www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org)

**Week 2-3: January 18-28 Controversies of Innocence**

The idea that childhood is a period of innocence is central to contemporary imaginings. However, Ariès describes images of childhood from earlier periods which we might feel are disturbingly sexual.

\*Ariès, Philippe 1962 *Centuries of Childhood: A Social History of Family Life*. New York: Vintage Books. Chapters 1, 2 and 3. In Course Pack.

\*Grimm Brothers, All Kinds of Fur, On Blackboard

\*J. H. Plumb, "The New World of Children in Eighteenth-Century England" *Past & Present*, No. 67 (May, 1975), pp. 64-95. Available on [www.jstor.org](http://www.jstor.org)

**Week 4: February 1 Killing off The Parents in Chapter 1: The Notion of the Family in Children's Fiction**

\*M. O. Grenby: "The Family Story", in Course Pack.

\*Nathan Bransford, "In Defense of Dead/Absent Parents in Children's Literature". On Blackboard

**Project 1: Analysis of All Kinds of Fur. Paper due Tuesday, February 1**

Week 5-6: February 8-17 **The Child and the Other And the Child as Other**

\*Claudia Castaneda, Figurations, Chapter 1, In course pack.

\*Satadru Sen, Colonial childhoods, Chapter 2, In course pack.

Week 7-8: February 22-March 3 **Pedagogy of the Oppressed**

\*Herbert Kohl, "Should we burn Babar"? In Course Pack.

\*Ariel Dorfman, "Of Elephants and Ducks". In Course Pack

\*Jean de Brunhof, The Story of Babar (Library Reserve)

**Project 2: Discuss the context, presence and consequence of colonialism in any one popular children's fiction. Your choice of novel/comic/picture-book has to be approved by me by February 1. Paper Due: Thursday, March 3**

Week 9: March 8-10 **Research Week on Final Project**

Week 10: March 15-17 **Spring Break**

Week 11-12: March 22-31 **Into the Jungle: the Adventure Story**

\*M. O. Grenby, "The Adventure Story" (In Course Pack)

\*John Ball, "Max's Colonial Fantasy" (On Blackboard)

\*Rudyard Kipling, Jungle Book (On Library Reserve).

Week 13: April 5 Film Show: Harry Potter

April 7: Discussion of Film

Week 14-15: April 12-21 **Fantasy**

\*M. O. Grenby, "Fantasy" (In Course Pack)

\*Sarah Gilead, "Magic Abjured: Closure in Children's Fantasy Fiction", PMLA, Vol. 106, no. 2. Available on JSTOR

\*Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone (On Library Reserve)

Week 16: April 26-28 **Review**

**FINAL PAPERS ARE DUE IN CLASS ON THURSDAY APRIL 28.**

### **FINAL PAPER DETAILS**

#### **Final Paper Topics:**

- The Historical Construction of Childhood and Children
- Gender and/or Sexuality in Children's Fiction
- Comparative Study of the same fairy tale in different cultures
- Role of Disney in Molding Modern Children
- Location of Fantasy in Children's Fiction
- Discuss the relationship between colonialism and children's fiction

**Length of Paper:** 10-15 pages, Times New Roman, font size 12

#### **Bibliography:**

- Must have 4-6 books or 6-8 Journal Articles
- Must be approved by me by Week 13 or earlier

**Citation Style:** Chicago Style