



ÇANKAYA UNIVERSITY
Department of English Language and Literature
2025-2026 Academic Year – Fall Semester
ELL 460 Children’s Literature (303-04)
Course Syllabus

Instructor: Özge Üstündağ Güvenç, PhD.
Course Hours: 13.20 – 16.10 Wednesday **Class:** RA 06
Office Hours: 13.00 – 14.00 Thursday
Office: R 107 **Phone:** 2331416
e-mail: ozgeguvenc@cankaya.edu.tr

Course Description

Works of literature for children and young adults have existed in every period, and such works often overlap with or encompass a wide range of styles and genres. They include songs, nursery rhymes, jokes, mnemonic devices and folk tales in the oral tradition; visual texts such as comics, cartoons, graphic novels and children’s films; performances of plays and dances; fables, fairy tales, fantasies, legends and myths; parables, educational texts; poems, short stories, novels, and dramatic works. Their function has varied across periods and cultures, from promoting religious and moralizing views to inculcating values, behaviors, traditions, and practices; from education to entertainment and pleasure. This course looks at selected texts of children’s literature, focusing on various issues that arise in or around them, such as gender, class, age, racial, ethnic, national or other stereotyping, educational ideologies, religious indoctrination, and censorship, and/or aspects of their language, themes or arguments, styles or genres, audiences or readerships, with reference to theoretical and critical studies in related areas.

Requirements

As the course aims to engage students with the diverse styles and genres of children’s literature and give them a critical perspective on the field, course activities will be based on pair work, group work, and class discussions. Therefore, for each class, students are expected to:

1. Be ready to discuss the debatable issues in class
2. Bring a pen, pencil, and paper to be able to take notes and write
3. Participate in class and group discussions, and activities
4. Turn off their mobile phones during class
5. Attendance is obligatory. More than 9 hours of absence will result in NA.

Learning Outcomes

Students will become familiar with the selected texts, have a sense of the range and diversity of the field, have a clear understanding of critical issues around children’s literature, engage with theoretical and social issues that emerge around texts in this field, and acquire an analytical perspective on reading children’s literature.

Course Materials will be provided by the instructor.

Unethical use of AI technology in assignments and class activities will be treated as plagiarism and will be subject to academic penalties.

Evaluation and Grading

ASSESSMENT TOOL	QUANTITY	PERCENTAGE
Midterm Exam	1	% 25
Final Exam	1	% 40
Presentation	1	% 10
Term Project	1	% 20
Participation in the discussion of reading materials	14	% 5

Weekly Schedule

Weeks	Content
Week 1 29 Sep. – 3 Oct.	Course Introduction – Syllabus What is Children’s Literature? Historical Development of Children’s Literature
Week 2 6 – 10 Oct.	Types of Children’s Literature Fable “The Boy Who Cried Wolf” Picturebook “The Tiger Who Came to Tea” by Judith Kerr “The Tale of Peter Rabbit” by Beatrix Potter Trickster Tale “The Raven”
Week 3 13 – 17 Oct.	Poetry From <i>A Child’s Garden of Verses</i> by Robert Louis Stevenson Selected poems by Shel Silverstein, Roger McGough, Roald Dahl, Benjamin Zephaniah
Week 4 20 – 24 Oct.	Short Story - Folk Tale “La Barbe Bleue” (“Bluebeard”) by Charles Perrault “The Bloody Chamber” by Angela Carter
Week 5 27 – 31 Oct.	NO CLASS (Republic Day)
Week 6 3 – 7 Nov.	Short Story – Fairy Tale “The Happy Prince” “The Selfish Giant” “The Nightingale and the Rose” by Oscar Wilde
Week 7 10 – 14 Nov.	MIDTERM WEEK
Week 8 17 – 21 Nov.	Realistic Fiction – Family Story <i>Little Women</i> by Louisa May Alcott (Film)

Week 9 24 – 28 Nov.	Fantasy Fiction - Adventure <i>The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe</i> by C. S. Lewis (Film)
Week 10 1 – 5 Dec.	Culturally Diverse Literature “How the Leopard Got His Spots?” by Rudyard Kipling “The Story of Little Black Sambo” by Helen Bannerman “The Jacket” by Andrew Clements
Week 11 8 – 12 Dec.	Young Adult Literature <i>The Map of Salt and Stars</i> by Zeyn Joukhadar
Week 12 15 – 19 Dec.	<i>The Map of Salt and Stars</i> by Zeyn Joukhadar
Week 13 22 – 26 Dec.	Student Presentations
Week 14 29 Dec. – 2 Jan.	Student Presentations
Week 15 5 – 9 Jan.	FINAL WEEK
Week 16 12 – 16 Jan.	FINAL WEEK

I WISH US ALL A GREAT SEMESTER