

Term Information

Effective Term Autumn 2015

General Information

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area German
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org Germanic Languages & Lit - D0547
College/Academic Group Arts and Sciences
Level/Career Undergraduate
Course Number/Catalog 2254
Course Title Grimms' Fairy Tales and their Afterlives
Transcript Abbreviation Grimms' FairyTales
Course Description In this course, we will work to understand the meaning and the enduring appeal of one of Germany's greatest successes in the realm of cultural exportation—the Grimms' fairy tales, a book whose circulation figures are exceeded in Western culture only by those of the Bible. To explore their reach, we will also compare them to their adaptations in literature and film, from dark to Disney.
Semester Credit Hours/Units Fixed: 3

Offering Information

Length Of Course 14 Week, 7 Week, 4 Week (May Session), 12 Week (May + Summer)
Flexibly Scheduled Course Never
Does any section of this course have a distance education component? No
Grading Basis Letter Grade
Repeatable No
Course Components Lecture
Grade Roster Component Lecture
Credit Available by Exam No
Admission Condition Course No
Off Campus Never
Campus of Offering Columbus

Prerequisites and Exclusions

Prerequisites/Corequisites
Exclusions

Cross-Listings

Cross-Listings

Subject/CIP Code

Subject/CIP Code 16.0501
Subsidy Level General Studies Course
Intended Rank Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior

Requirement/Elective Designation

General Education course:
Literature

Course Details

Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes

- Students analyze, interpret, and critique significant literary works.
- Through reading, discussing, and writing about literature, students appraise and evaluate the personal and social values of their own and other cultures.
- Students investigate the cultural context and composition of the Grimms' fairy tales, and explore and apply a variety of interpretive and critical approaches to them.
- By comparing the Grimms' tales to adaptations from other cultural moments, students gain an understanding of the relationship between history, culture, and artistic production, including in their own time and place.

Content Topic List

- What is a Fairy Tale, and Who were the Grimms?
- Cultural Specificity of Fairy Tales and the Question of Ownership: The Grimms' Tales
- Modernist Fairy Tales
- Contemporary Literary and Screen Adaptations

Attachments

- German 2254 Syllabus.doc: Syllabus German 2254
(Syllabus. Owner: Miller, Natascha)
- German 2254, GE Rationale and Assessment.docx: GE Rationale and Assessment Plan
(GEC Model Curriculum Compliance Stmt. Owner: Byram, Katra A)

Comments

Workflow Information

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Byram, Katra A	02/02/2015 01:52 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Holub, Robert Charles	02/02/2015 03:00 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Heyssel, Garrett Robert	02/08/2015 06:08 PM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Nolen, Dawn Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal Hanlin, Deborah Kay Jenkins, Mary Ellen Bigler Hogle, Danielle Nicole	02/08/2015 06:08 PM	ASCCAO Approval

German 2254:

Grimms' Fairy Tales and their Afterlives

Instructor:
Office:
Office hours:
Phone:
Email:

Meeting times:
Classroom:

German 2254 is a GE course that satisfies the category Literature.

Goals: Students evaluate significant texts in order to develop capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment; interpretation and evaluation; and critical listening, reading, seeing, thinking, and writing.

Expected Learning Outcomes:

1. Students analyze, interpret, and critique significant literary works.
2. Through reading, discussing, and writing about literature, students appraise and evaluate the personal and social values of their own and other cultures.

In reading, discussing, and writing about Grimms' fairy tales and their modernist and contemporary adaptations, students will develop their abilities to read, think, and write critically. Lectures will aid students in expanding their analytical capabilities. As students learn about the historical development of the fairy tales and consider these stories with respect to their shifting cultural contexts, they will also gain awareness of the ways in which stories relate to social values and reflect on how various iterations of the fairy tales do or do not correspond to their own values and beliefs.

Course Description

In the present course, we will be trying to understand the meaning and the enduring appeal of one of Germany's greatest successes in the realm of cultural exportation—a book whose circulation figures are exceeded in Western culture only by those of the Bible, namely, Grimms' fairy tales. This will mean asking a series of interlocking questions. How did the fairy tales come about? What were the aims of their compilers? How do the tales play to those aims? How do they exceed them? How do the tales tend to work structurally? What have their social and psychological effects been? How have they helped shape—and been reshaped by—popular cultures outside Germany, like popular culture in the U.S. In reckoning with these questions, we will be enlisting the help of a parade of great critics, including Vladimir Propp, Bruno Bettelheim, Erich Auerbach, and Jack Zipes.

Required Texts:

Jack Zipes, *The Complete Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm*

Assigned films will be available at drm.osu.edu

Other readings will be posted on Carmen.

Assignments:

1. **Three multiple-choice quizzes.** These quizzes will test students' completion of the readings and knowledge of major lecture concepts.
2. **Mid-term exam.** The exam will consist of short answer questions on facts and concepts covered in class, and essay questions in which students will interpret fairy tales in various contexts
3. **Final exam.** The format of this exam is the same as the mid-term.

Grades will be determined as follows:

1. Quizzes	30%
2. Midterm	35%
3. Final exam	<u>35%</u>
	100%

Grading Scale

93-100 = A	80-82 = B-	68-69 = D+
90-92 = A-	78-79 = C+	63-67 = D
88-89 = B+	73-77 = C	below 63 = E
83-87 = B	70-72 = C-	

Course plan**Week 1**

Who Were the Grimms? And What Is a Fairy Tale?

T: Introduction

R: Zipes, fairy tales #23 and #136; Antti Aarne and Stith Thompson secondary literature essay (Carmen)

Week 2

Who Were the Grimms and What is a Fairy Tale (continued)? And What Do Fairy Tales Mean and Do?

T: Zipes, fairy tale #15, Maria Tatar, pp. 269-280 (fairy tale), Vladimir Propp secondary essay #1 (Carmen)

R: Zipes, fairy tale #26, Vladimir Propp secondary essay #2 (Carmen)

Week 3

On the Cultural Specificity of Fairy Tales

T: Donald Haase secondary essay (Carmen)

R: Zipes, fairy tales #110 and #119

Week 4

Cultural Specificity and the Question of Ownership

T: Zipes fairy tales #111 and #151, Zohar Shavit secondary essay (Carmen)

R: Quiz #1, Zipes fairy tale #56

Week 5

Sex, Violence, and Fairy Tales

T: Zipes fairy tales #40, #55, #72, and #125, Maria Tatar secondary essay (Carmen)

R: Bruno Bettelheim secondary essay #1 (Carmen)

Week 6

Do the Critics Help Us When We Read a (Mostly) Random Selection of Fairy Tales?

T: Zipes, fairy tales #80, #87, #128, #182, and #195, Bruno Bettelheim secondary essay #2 (Carmen)

R: Zipes, fairy tales #147, #166, #187, #200, and #209, Erich Auerbach secondary essay (Carmen)

Week 7

On the Meaning of Modernist Fairy Tales

T: Oscar Wilde, "The Selfish Giant" (Carmen); Kurt Schwitters, "He," "The Man with the Glass Nose," "Once Upon a Time there was a Tiny Mouse" (Carmen)

R: Midterm

Week 8

Disneyfied?

T: Zipes secondary essay (Carmen); Viewing assignment: *Snow White* (clip); *Cinderella*

R: Zipes fairy tale # 21; *Cinderella*

Week 9

Disneyfied 2.0?

T: Viewing assignment: *Tangled*

R: Zipes fairy tale # 12; *Tangled*

Week 10

Disneyfied 2.0? (continued)

T: Viewing assignment: *Into the Woods*

R: Zipes fairy tales # 36, 26; *Into the Woods*

Week 11

A Different Kind of Screen Adaptation

T: Viewing assignment: *Freeway*

R: Quiz #2; *Freeway*

Week 12

A Different Kind of Different Screen Adaptation
T: Viewing assignment: *The Princess Bride*
R: Zipes fairy tales # 114, 193; *The Princess Bride*

Week 13

Contemporary Literary Adaptations
T: Joseph Jacobs, "Mr. Fox" (Carmen)
R: Margaret Atwood, "Bluebeard's Egg" (Carmen)

Week 14

Contemporary Literary Adaptations (continued)
T: Angela Carter, "The Tiger's Bride" (Carmen)
R: Anne Sexton, "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" (Carmen)

Week 15

Review Major Themes—Reading Grimms' Fairy Tales Once Again
T: Zipes fairy tales #19, #27, #43, #119
R: Quiz #3; screening clips of various films viewed in class

Academic Misconduct:

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term "academic misconduct" includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info_for_students/csc.asp).

Disability statement:

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Rationale

a) **How do the course objectives address the GE category expected learning outcomes?**

German 2254 fulfills the GE category "Literature" because it develops students' capacities for aesthetic and historical response and judgment; interpretation and evaluation; critical listening, reading, seeing, thinking, and writing. Through its social and cultural contextualization of Grimms' fairy tales and their literary and filmic adaptations, the course develops students' reading and interpretive skills, as well as their appreciation for the way cultural texts are adapted in new cultural and historical situations. It also introduces students to scholarly interpretations of these popular texts, exposing them to a variety of frameworks for interpretation and evaluation. In the end, this course offers an in-depth analysis of Grimms' fairy tales in their many German and American forms and, in so doing, equips students with strategies and skills for critical reading and textual interpretation.

b) **How do the readings assigned address the GE category ELOs?**

The readings begin with literary classics, the Grimms' fairy tales, whose social and historical significance is attested by their massive popularity and continuing cultural influence over time. Students will read seminal works of criticism by scholars including Vladimir Propp, Antti Aarne and Stith Thompson, Maria Tatar, Bruno Bettelheim, and Eric Auerbach, which will introduce them to a variety of analytical approaches. Finally, as they read and view a diverse group of British, German, American, and Canadian adaptations of fairy tales, students will have the opportunity to appraise and evaluate the personal and social values of their own and other cultures. These adaptations range from modernist texts by Oscar Wilde and Kurt Schwitters, to blockbuster Disney adaptations, to the edgy cult film *Freeway*, to contemporary literary renditions by Margaret Atwood and Anne Sexton.

c) **How do the topics address the GE category ELOs?**

All of the topics are centered on guiding students in analyzing, interpreting, and critiquing Grimms' fairy tales and literary and artistic responses to them. In addition to their literary qualities, the popularity and cultural importance of these texts and their adaptations makes them a rich source for exploring cultural values in the Germany, the United States, and other cultures.

d) **How do the written assignments address the GE category ELOs?**

The exam essays require students to conduct their own analyses and interpretations of the filmic material covered in the course. The exam short-answer questions require students to outline the key elements of analytical approaches and to identify ways in which the literary texts relate to the personal and social values of German, American, and other English-speaking cultures.

e) **How does the course aim to sharpen students' response, judgment, and evaluation skills?**

Students will have the opportunity to refine their responses to and their understanding and analysis of the texts on a daily basis, as they compare their own interpretations of the texts to the interpretations presented in class. Class periods will consist of critical discussion of the texts, in which students continually will be asked to reflect on the similarities and differences between their own and others' understandings, and to articulate for themselves their own evaluation of the texts' meaning and cultural importance. By introducing students to a variety of critical approaches and questions, the course will also provide them with a toolbox for approaching, evaluating, and interpreting literary texts.

Assessment plan for the course:

- a) Direct assessment is embedded in the grading criteria for the assignments; that is, the quizzes and exams will be evaluated based on the goals and objectives of the course, which align with the Expected Learning Outcomes. Specifically, the course will evaluate the extent to which students' assignments indicate that they have learned to:
- apply a variety of analytical frameworks to literary and artistic products;
 - conduct critical interpretations of literary texts within their historical and cultural contexts; and
 - reflect critically on their own cultural values and on the differences and similarities between these values and those of people in other times and places.

The instructor will assess the degree to which these objectives have been achieved in the various course assignments.

As an indirect assessment measure, the attached student survey will be appended to the narrative course evaluation forms collected by Germanic Language and Literatures at the end of each semester. (See Appendix A).

- b) Since direct assessment will be based on the course assignments, whose core criteria are the ELOs, the measure of student achievement will derive from the grades on these assignments. On the final examination, 80% of students should receive a "C" or above on their analytical essay.

On the indirect assessments, the course will be considered successful if at least 80% of the students answer "agree" or "strongly agree" on each question on the survey in Appendix A.

- c) The department office will maintain the instructor's assessments and other comments in the course file for review by the Undergraduate Studies Committee and the department chair.

Based on the comments of the students on the narrative evaluations and the instructor's assessment of the course (which includes an evaluation of the materials and pedagogy employed to reach the objectives of the course, as well as of student performance and comments), appropriate changes will be made to the syllabus.

Appendix A:

German XXXX: Grimms' Fairy Tales: ???

GE: Literature
Student Learning-Self-Evaluation

Please select the response that best reflects your experience in this course.

As a result of this course, I.....	Strongly agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly disagree
... have learned to analyze, interpret, and appreciate significant literary works.				
... have reflected on the ways that my values both resemble and differ from the values of people in other times and places.				
...have learned to understand ways in which historical, social, and political context impact the form and the meaning of literary texts.				

Please feel free to explain your answers: