

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
ENGL-107-10: The Road to Faerie
Summer 2018
MTWR 1:00 pm - 3:00pm
Maguire 102

Instructor: Professor Rae Grabowski, New North ###. Office Hours: Monday/ Wednesday 3:15-4:15 pm and Tuesday/ Thursday 11:45-12:45 pm. E-mail: reg86@georgetown.edu.

Course Description: Fairy is very powerful. Even the bad author cannot escape it. He probably makes up his tale out of bits of older tales, or things he half-remembers, and they may be too strong for him to spoil or disenchant.” This description of the lure of fairy stories from Tolkien’s fragmentary introduction to *The Golden Key* will serve as our roadmap for the semester as we explore the enduring attraction of faerie stories. We will examine the indebtedness of modern fantasy to medieval conceptions of faerie and track how our different authors deal with the recurring themes such as Otherness, the uncanny, the relationship of faerie to the natural world, to religion, and to time.

Readings will include *Sir Orfeo*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, *Lanfel*, *Lud-in-the-Mist*, Tolkien’s *Smith of Wootton Major*, *Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell*, and the Sandman version of “*A Midsummer’s Nights Dream*.”

Course Objectives:

At the end of this course you will be able to:

- Discuss the ways that these stories of fairy and other worlds reflect the societies and cultures that produced them.
- Discuss how fairy stories in the thousand plus years we are examining them adapt, transform, and speak to one another and intersect with genera such as myth, folklore, and fantasy.
- Provide academic definitions for enchantment, supernatural, alterity, nostalgia, and intertextuality.
- Produce several forms of academic writing including a close reading, word study, and critical essay.

Class Expectations: You should arrive to class prepared and on time, with a copy of the readings. Most of them can be found on Canvas; there are a few where we are reading a substantive amount of the text

After two unexcused absences, further missed classes will adversely affect your grade. A total of four missed classes will result in a failing grade for the course. You are responsible for finding out from other students what you missed in class and getting copies of the material and assignments. All assignments will also all be upload to Canvas once they are distributed to the class.

I respect and uphold University policies and regulations regarding sporting events, religious obligations, or another university-sponsored event, which are all excused and do not count

against you. Please let me know in advance if you will be missing class for such a reason. In the event of illness or an emergency, please contact me via email as soon as possible.

Papers: There will be two 2-3-page papers and a 5-7-page paper assigned for this course. All drafts should be polished, proofread, and the full required length. Please use MLA citation. Papers should be submitted to me via email by the start of the class on which they are due.

Written work which is turned in late without the permission of the instructor will be penalized by a letter grade (i.e., an A- would become a B+) for each day it is late.

Discussion Questions: Each student will be part of one of four different discussion groups. Four times over the course of the session, students in each group will be responsible for formulating discussion questions to help spark and guide the in-class discussion. Each student in the group is required to send three critical questions to me via email by 9 am the days their group is assigned.

Grading:

Paper 1 and Paper 2: 40%

Final Paper: 30%

Attendance, in-class participation: 10%

Weekly discussion Questions: 20%

Writing Resources: Georgetown provides a Walk-In Writing Service where you can discuss your writing at any stage of the writing process with a fellow student tutor. I encourage you to make use of it. Hours and locations can be found at <http://writingcenter.georgetown.edu/>

For Students Needing Accommodation: If you have specific physical, psychiatric, or learning disabilities and require accommodations, please discuss with me as soon as possible. I also encourage you to speak to the appropriate office on campus to see what further help Georgetown (Disability support, counseling and psychiatric services, etc.). If you need help finding the appropriate avenue of support, I would be happy to provide you with resources.

Course Content Warning

Some of the texts assigned in this class discuss and depict topics are disturbing including rape, violence, and murder. If you suspect that specific material is likely to be emotionally challenging for you, I'd be happy to discuss any concerns you may have before the subject comes up in class. Likewise, if you ever wish to discuss your personal reactions to course material with the class or with me individually afterward, I welcome such discussions as an appropriate part of our classwork.

If you ever feel the need to step outside during a class discussion you may always do so without academic penalty. You will, however, be responsible for any material you miss. If you do leave the room for a significant time, please make arrangements to get notes from another student or see me individually to discuss the situation.

Health Concerns: If you find yourself struggling with your mental or physical health this semester, please feel free to approach me. I try to be flexible and accommodating.

Additionally, Georgetown provides health and mental health services to support the academic success of students. You can contact the student health center at 202-687-2200 and Counseling and Psychiatric Services (CAPS) at 202-687-6985 during business hours or 202-444-PAGE (7243) for emergencies after business hours (ask to speak to the on-call clinician).

Accommodations For Students With Basic Needs Security Issues: Any student who faces challenges securing their food or housing or is worried about their or a loved one's ability to continue to reside in the USA and believes this may affect their performance in the course is urged to contact the Division of Student Affairs (at 202-687-4056) for support. Furthermore, please notify me if you are comfortable in doing so. This will enable me to provide any resources that I may possess.

Unethical Practices: I expect you to adhere strictly to the Georgetown Honor Pledge. All the work you submit in this course must have been written by you, for this course. Words or ideas borrowed from others must be explicitly acknowledged. If you have any questions about the appropriate way to make use of others' words and ideas, do not hesitate to speak with me before handing in your work. I may run papers through detection software and turn suspected cases over to the Honor Council. For more information on what constitutes plagiarism and how Georgetown handles plagiarism cases, see *honorcouncil.georgetown.edu*.

Required Text

Armitage, Simon. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. Faber and Faber, London, 2007.
ISBN: 9780393334159

Gaiman, Neil. *Neverwhere: Author's Preferred Text*. New York, NY: William Morrow, 2016.
ISBN: 9780062459084

Mirrlees, Hope. *Lud-in-the-mist*. London: Millennium, 2000.
ISBN: 9781857987676

Recommended Text

Clarke, Susanna, and Portia Rosenberg. *Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell*. New York: Tor, 2006.
ISBN: 9780765356154

Clarke, Susanna. *The Ladies of Grace Adieu: and Other Stories*. New York: Bloomsbury, 2006.
ISBN: 9781596912519

Davies, Sioned, *The Mabinogion*. Oxford University Press, New York, 2007.
ISBN: 9780199218783

Gaiman, Neil, and Kelley Jones. *Dream Country*. London: Titan, 2010.
ISBN: 9781401229351

Tolkien, J R. R. *Smith of Wootton Major and Farmer Giles of Ham*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1986.

ISBN: 9780345336064

Tolkien, J R. R. *The Tolkien Reader*. Intro. Peter S. Beagle. New York: Ballantine Books, 1966.
ISBN: 9780345345066

Items marked with an asterisk (*) on the course calendar are available on canvas.

- M 6.4** *First day of class*
- T 6.5** *Mabinogion*, “First branch”—“Fourth Branch”*
Discussion questions group A
- W 6.6.** *Mabinogion*, “Peredur son of Efwarg” and “The Lady of the Well”*
Discussion questions group B
- R 6.7** *Sir Orfeo**
Discussion questions group C
- M 6.11** *Sir Launfal** and *The Wedding of Sir Gawain and Dame Ragnelle**
Discussion questions group D
- T 6.12** *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* “Fitts 1 and 2”
Discussion questions group A
- W 6.13** *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* “Fitts 3 and 4”
Discussion questions group B
- R 6.14** "Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale" from *The Canterbury Tales**
Paper 1 Due
- M 6.18** “On Faerie Stories” in *The Tolkien Reader**
Discussion questions group C
- T 6.19** “A Midsummers Nights Dream” from *The Sandman: Dream Country* (Vol. 3)*
Discussion questions group D
- W 6.20** “Smith of Wooton Major”
Discussion questions group A
- R 6.21** Hope Mirrlees, *Lud-in-the-Mist*, ch 1-7.
Discussion questions group B
- M 6.25** Hope Mirrlees, *Lud-in-the-Mist*, ch 8-18.
Paper 2 due
- T 6.26** Hope Mirrlees, *Lud-in-the-Mist* ch 19-32

Discussion questions group C

- W 6.27** *Ladies of Grace Adieu and Other Stories*, “Introduction,” “Tom Brightwind or How the Fairy Bridge was Built at Thorseby,” “Antickes and Frets,” “John Uskglass and the Cumbrian Charcoal Burner,”*
Discussion questions group D
- R 6.28** *Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norell* Ch 7-8, Ch 15-17, Ch 26-27*
Discussion questions group A
- M 7.2** *Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norell* Ch 42-45, Ch 54-55*
Discussion questions group B
- T 7.3** *Neverwhere*, ch 1-5
Discussion questions group C
- W 7.4** *Neverwhere*, ch 6-12
Discussion questions group D
- R 7.5** *Neverwhere*, ch 13-20
- M. 7.9** **Final Paper Due**