

ENGL 244  
 CHILDREN'S LITERATURE:  
 A SELECTED GENRE  
 2008 / Trimester 2

## COURSE ORGANISATION

### *Course co-ordinators*

Dr Anna Jackson	VZ 918	ext. 6840
Dr Geoff Miles	VZ 915	ext. 6809
A/P Harry Ricketts	VZ 906	ext. 6814
Dr Tatjana Schaefer	VZ 917	ext. 6802
A/P Kathryn Walls	VZ916	ext. 6898

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### *Class times and places*

Lecture theatre: KKL301

Lecture times: Monday 1.10-2pm, Wednesday 12-12.50pm, Thursday 1.10-2 pm

**Note** that the Wednesday lecture is not at the same time as the other two!

Tutorials: to be announced (see below)

### *Tutorials*

Tutorials will be held once a week from the second week of the trimester. Tutorial sign-up will take place in lectures in week 1; tutorial lists will then be posted on the English noticeboard (in the foyer outside HM 206) and on Blackboard.

### *Further information*

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

## COURSE CONTENT

### ***Aims and objectives***

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. 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”.

**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).

## RECOMMENDED 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.

## 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**. For extensions contact your tutor.

## ASSESSMENT

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 31 July**. 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 8 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 24 September.** 1500-2000 words. Topics will be distributed in **week 7.** 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 (13 October – 9 November). 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)

### ***Due dates and extensions***

- If you need to arrange an alternative time for the test, or to apply for an extension beyond the due date for the exercise or essay, you should fill out the relevant form (included in your Assignment File), and deliver it to your tutor at least 24 hours beforehand. Work submitted when an extension has been granted will be graded in the normal way.
- Work submitted late without an extension will be counted, as long as it is received by Friday 11 October. You will however be penalized by a lowering of the grade by one step (eg B to B-).

### ***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.

### ***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.

### ***Further information***

Some course resources and course materials can be found on Blackboard, where any important announcements will also be posted.

## SECONDARY READINGS

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



## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY AND PLAGIARISM

Academic integrity is about honesty – put simply it means no cheating. All members of the University community are responsible for upholding academic integrity, which means staff and students are expected to behave honestly, fairly and with respect for others at all times.

Plagiarism is a form of cheating which undermines academic integrity. The University defines plagiarism as:

*The presentation of the work of another person or other persons as if it were one's own, whether intended or not. This includes published or unpublished work, material on the Internet and the work of other students or staff.*

It is still plagiarism even if you re-structure the material or present it in your own style or words.

*Note: It is however, perfectly acceptable to include the work of others as long as that is acknowledged by appropriate referencing.*

Plagiarism is prohibited at Victoria and is not worth the risk. Any enrolled student found guilty of plagiarism will be subject to disciplinary procedures under the Statute on Student Conduct and may be penalized severely. Consequences of being found guilty of plagiarism can include:

- an oral or written warning
- cancellation of your mark for an assessment or a fail grade for the course
- suspension from the course or the University.

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

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

## GENERAL UNIVERSITY STATUTES AND POLICIES

Students 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 available in hardcopy or under "about Victoria" on the Victoria homepage at:

[http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about\\_victoria/calendar\\_intro.html](http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about_victoria/calendar_intro.html)

Information on the following topics is available electronically under "Course Outline General Information" at:

<http://www.victoria.ac.nz/home/about/newspubs/universitypubs.aspx#general>

- Student and Staff Conduct
- Academic Grievances
- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism
- Meeting the Needs of Students with Impairments
- Student Support

# LECTURE PROGRAMME

AJ Anna Jackson GM Geoff Miles HR Harry Ricketts  
TS Tatjana Schaefer KW Kathryn Walls

1 Mon 7 July	Introduction (ALL)
Wed 9 July	Fantasy (GM/HR)
Thur 10 July	Children's Literature (KW)
2 Mon 14 July	Lewis 1: Introduction (HR)
Wed 16 July	Lewis 2: <i>The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe/Prince Caspian</i> (HR)
Thur 17 July	Lewis 3: <i>The Magician's Nephew</i> (AJ)
3 Mon 21 July	Lewis 4: <i>The Last Battle</i> (HR)
Wed 23 July	Lewis 5: Allegory or myth (HR)
Thur 24 July	Lewis 6: Talking animals (AJ)
4 Mon 28 July	Lewis 7: Critiquing Lewis (HR)
Wed 30 July	Lewis 8: Lewis on Film (ALL)
Thur 31 July	<b>CLASS TEST</b> on CS Lewis
5 Mon 4 August	<b>Guest Speaker</b>
Wed 6 August	Le Guin 1: Introduction (GM)
Thurs 7 August	Le Guin 2: World-building, language, magic (GM)
6 Mon 11 August	Le Guin 3: <i>A Wizard of Earthsea</i> (GM)
Wed 13 August	Le Guin 4: <i>The Tombs of Atuan</i> (GM)
Thur 14 August	Le Guin 5: <i>The Farthest Shore</i> (GM)
<b>Mid-trimester break</b>	
7 Mon 1 September	Le Guin 6: <i>Tehanu</i> – LG critiquing LG (GM)
Wed 3 September	Le Guin 7: <i>The Other Wind</i> (GM)
Thur 4 September	The difficulty of Children's Literature (ALL)
8 Mon 8 September	Gee 1: Life and Influences (KW) <b>EXERCISE DUE</b>
Wed 10 September	Gee 2: Gee and Lewis (HR)
Thur 11 September	Gee 3: Contradictions (KW)
9 Mon 15 September	Gee 4: "Psychic growth" in <i>Halfmen of O</i> (KW)
Wed 17 September	Gee 5: <i>The Priests of Ferris</i> (KW)
Thur 18 September	Gee 6: History in <i>Motherstone</i> (KW)
10 Mon 22 September	Children's Literature: Romanticism and Modernity (ALL)
Wed 24 September	Pullman 1: The power of a story (AJ) <b>ESSAY DUE</b>
Thur 25 September	Pullman 2: Pullman and Milton (Peter Whiteford)
11 Mon 29 September	Pullman 3: Pullman and genre (AJ)
Wed 1 October	Pullman 4: the child and the child reader (AJ)
Thur 2 October	Pullman 5: Theology and science 1 (AJ)
12 Mon 6 October	Pullman 6: Theology and science 2 (AJ)
Wed 8 October	Pullman 7: Pullman on Lewis, critics on Pullman (AJ)
Thur 10 October	Conclusions (ALL)