Spring 2018 Course Descriptions

Instructor: Elizabeth Robinson
Course: ENGL 285
Title: She Is . . . Strengths of Heroines as Portrayed in Children's and Young Adult Literature

This course will actually be taught by Grace Schuetze as part of an Honors Teacher-Scholar Capstone. Dr. Robinson is the mentor teacher.

Description: While feminist approaches to children’s and young adult literature are common, late twentieth and twenty-first century feminist critics are noticeably unkind to a particular kind of heroine. The purpose of this course is to redeem heroines that are often denigrated by the critics. We will examine heroines who do not topple governments (Katniss Everdeen) or defeat dark magic overlords (Hermione Granger), but who, we argue, may still be seen as role models, possessing characteristics that are both admirable and adaptable to the everyday lives of today’s child and adolescent readers.

Proposed Readings:
• Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery
• Voyage of the Dawn Treader by C.S. Lewis
• Number the Stars by Lois Lowry
• Gathering Blue by Lois Lowry
• The Legend of the Bluebonnets by Tomie dePaola
• Selected Fairy Tales