

Fall 2019 Course Descriptions

Instructor: Elizabeth Robinson

Course: ENGL 331

Title: Fantasy Literature

Description: Beginning with a brief look back at early texts that influenced the development of the fantasy novel (epic, Medieval romance, German Romanticism), this course primarily explores modern fantasy, a genre which begins to come into its own in the 19th century. We will explore the work of early fantasists: George MacDonald and William Morris, the work of the two giants of modern fantasy: J. R. R. Tolkien and C.S. Lewis, the work of one of the most important American writers of fantasy in the 20th century, Ursula LeGuin, and we will conclude our semester by looking at a major trend in YA fiction: the warrior woman hero, as exemplified in novels by Tamora Pierce, Robin McKinley, and Garth Nix. We will explore fantasy novels written for adults, for young adults, and for children.

Proposed Readings: Beowulf

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

Malory: Morte Darthur

George MacDonald: Phantastes

William Morris: The Wood Beyond the World

C. S. Lewis: Voyage of the Dawn Treader

J. R. R. Tolkien: The Hobbit

Ursula LeGuin: Wizard of Earthsea

Garth Nix: Sabriel

Tamora Pierce: Alanna

Robin McKinley: The Blue Sword