



COURSE DESCRIPTION

2016 Winter Session (2016-2017 Academic Year)

ENGL 100-016: Why Fairy Tales Still Matter - Rick Gooding

Reading and Writing about Literature

Term 2

TTh, 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

Focused on literary texts in their critical and theoretical contexts, ENGL 100 is a course in academic writing that fulfills the first-year component of the Faculty of Arts Writing Requirement.

What, exactly, *is* a fairy tale? Why do some remain popular even two or three hundred years after they were first published? And why do modern writers so often return to the form, sometimes to rewrite old tales and sometimes to compose brand-new ones? In this course, we will address these questions by reading a variety of classic tales by the Brothers Grimm, Charles Perrault, and Jeanne-Marie Leprince de Beaumont as well as modern versions of those tales by Francesca Lia Block and Donna Jo Napoli. We'll also read recent fairy tales by Neil Gaiman and Philip Pullman that seem to have no literary antecedents. In lectures and discussions we'll consider how fairy tales have been adapted to meet the needs of distinct historical periods, and how different critical approaches to the same tale can yield entirely different interpretations.