Course Title: English 4 - Fairytales/Fantasy Literature

Course #: 1261-1262

Course Description: The focus of the first semester of English 4 is the writing process as well as conventions of grammar and style appropriate to college-level expository writing.

Fairytales/Fantasy: Today, fairytales are part of our common culture; they are told or read to us as children, adapted for adult and young adult fiction, featured in advertisements, and portrayed in film and on television. The word "fairytale" suggests something pleasant for children, but our culture's obsession with stories of dragons and elves, witches and wizardry suggest these stories are born of a more profound impulse of human nature. In this course, we will explore key motifs and archetypes in fairy tales and selected fantasy literature. The concepts of the course will be applied to a reading list that will include core readings and opportunities for student choice.

UC/CSU Approval: “b” approved

Grade Level: 12

Estimated Homework Per Week: 3-4 hours, depending on the type of assignments and student's reading/writing stamina

Prerequisite: Completion of English 3, 3H, or AP English Language and Composition

Recommended Prerequisite Skills:
- Reading fluency
- Competency in writing 5 paragraph essays
- Basic grammar skills
- Time management and organizational skills

Course Grade Categories:
Fall:
- Formal Writing (50%)
- Reading, Informal Writing, Quizzes (30%)
- Final Exam (20%)

Spring:
- Classwork/Homework/Tests/Quizzes (20%)
• Formal Writing and Projects (60%)
• Informal Writing (20%)

Major Assessments/Units/Topics:
Fall: Students will complete the following major assessments during the fall semester: Memoir Essay, Definition Essay, Compare and Contrast Essay, Argument Research Essay, and Multi-media Presentation.

Spring: Students will complete the following major assessments during the spring semester: Process Essay, Literary Explication, On-demand Essay, Creative Writing Project, and Multi-Media Presentation.

Fall Semester: Expository Writing

Unit 1: Description and Narration - Reading and Writing the Personal Memoir: Students will work on the necessary writing skills to incorporate descriptive writing in a personal narrative.
• Major Assessment: The College Essay/Narrative Essay

Unit 2: Comparison and Contrast - Negotiating News Sources: Students will look at how to evaluate and compare/contrast different viewpoints on topics in the news.
• Major Assessment: On-Demand Comparison and Contrast Essay
• Reading Selections may include: “Have Smartphones Destroyed a Generation?,” “When In Person Conversation Is Better Than Texting,” “Have Smartphones Destroyed a Generation?” Responses to this Article, articles on 4 year vs. CC vs. Trade School

Unit 3: Definition Essay: Students will learn how to craft a definition essay, where they define an abstract word.
• Major Assessment: Definition Process Essay
• Reading Selections may include: “Repeal the Second Amendment,” “Guys vs Men,” “I Want a Wife,” “Why Be Happy?,” “A Better Kind of Happiness,” “If You Are What You Eat,” “Rita Hayworth and the Shawshank Redemption”

Unit 4: Argument - Social Justice: Students will learn how to craft an argument, research paper.
• Major Assessment: Process Research Argument Essay
• Reading Selections may include: “A Modest Proposal,” “Island of Plenty,” “Morals of the Prince,” “Mind Over Mass Media,” “Your Technology Is Making You Stupid,” “Should Batman Kill the Joker?,” “A Choice of Evils”

Semester Final Exam: Multi-Media Presentation on Research Essay

Spring Semester – Fairy Tales and Fantasy

Unit 1: The Grimms’ Tales: They’re not for Children - Students will read and analyze traditional fairy tales and literary criticism on the fairy tales.
• Major Assessment: On-Demand Comparison Essay
• Reading Selections: Selected Fairy Tales, Select poems, The Uses of Enchantment, A Little Book on the Human Shadow

Unit 2: Children’s Fantasy: Flights of Fancy - Students will read and analyze children’s fantasy literature.
• Major Assessment: On-Demand Literary Explication
• Reading Selections: Excerpts from Selected texts such as Alice’s Adventures In Wonderland, Peter and Wendy, Dandelion Wine, and the Harry Potter Series, Select Poems

Unit 3: Adult Fantasy: The Romantic (and not so Romantic) Tale - Students will read and analyze fantasy novels.
• Major Assessment: Research Essay and Digital Map
• Reading Selections: Selected readings from The Lord of the Rings, The Hobbit, The Princess Bride, and Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?; (video) The Fellowship of the Ring

Unit 4: Re-telling the Tales: The Modern Twist - Students will read and analyze modern twists on the fantasy, fairy tale genre.
• Major Assessment: Creative Writing Multimedia Project and Presentation
• Reading Selections: Selected readings from Beyond the Woods: Fairy Tales Retold, The Bloody Chamber, Fairy Tales for the Disillusioned, along with various Disney versions, episodes from TV, Into the Woods, and Ella Enchanted