

Folktales and Fairy Tales

MGRK 212, LITR 328

Spring 2016, M 1.30-3.20pm, LORIA 259

Instructor

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Course Description

The course approaches, in the first part, the folktale as a genre of oral literature. Some basic concepts of the folktale and fairy tale scholarship will be discussed. The folktale will be placed in the oral literary canon by discussing and challenging the academic classifications of oral narratives. Topics such as performance, storytellers and audience will be analyzed. In the second part, the course scrutinizes the most important theoretical approaches, such as formalism, psychoanalysis, feminism and history-sociology. At the third and last part, the course will deal with the problem of orality versus literacy, as expressed in early European folk and fairy tales from Italy and France, followed by the Brothers Grimm collections through to popular chapbooks of fairy tales. The course will encourage a comparative reading of the primary texts from many European countries (German, French, Italian, English, and Hungarian). However, the course will place specific focus on Greek material and will challenge the applicability or relevance of the Western European scholarship to an oral tradition of a country of the European margins such as Greece. Texts will be available in English though students are encouraged to read available material in the original language.

Course Guidelines

Grade Distribution

Attendance and participation	10%
Oral presentation	15%
First paper (3 pages)	20%
Midterm paper (5 pages)	25%
Final paper (10-12 pages)	30%

Attendance

Class attendance is mandatory. Only one (1) unexcused absence is allowed over the course of the semester. Students are expected to come to class on time, finish readings on time, and participate in class discussions.

Oral Presentation

Students should choose one week of the schedule and prepare an oral presentation on the suggested readings. The presentation (approximately 10-15 minutes) should offer not only a description of the reading material but also a critical insight of the author's proposed arguments. The goal of the presentation is to provoke and initiate discussion in the class. Along with the oral presentation, students should provide a typed, maximum one page, written summary of their presentation (please bring a sufficient number of copies).

Paper Requirements

Papers should be submitted on time, in hard copy and electronically. They should be double-spaced, 12 pt type. Papers should include all relevant critical/scholarly sources. Choose your citation style and follow it consistently throughout your paper. In case of plagiarism the paper will be rejected. Please review Yale's guidelines on academic writing: <http://ctl.yale.edu/writing/using-sources>

First Paper: It is a short critique of literature, either primary or secondary. You have to demonstrate that you have read the material carefully. If you prefer a secondary source, you must reflect the arguments of the author carefully. You can choose either an article we have already discussed or a new one. A close reading of a folktale or a fairy tale (or a collection of tales) is also acceptable.

Midterm and Final Paper: Please form an idea of your topics you are interested in and contact me as soon as possible to clarify the subject! You should have a clear idea in mind before you begin writing. You can ask me for suggested topics and literature. In the midterm and final paper you have to reflect on both primary and secondary sources. You can turn your midterm paper topic into the final one if you like. However, in order for your paper to be accepted you have to show substantial progress in the final paper.

Weekly Schedule

Part I: Basic Topics of Folktale and Fairy-Tale Scholarship

Week 1 (January 22): Introduction. Why Study Folktales and Fairy Tales?

Tatar, Maria 1999, Little Red Riding Hood, In Tatar, Maria (ed.), *The Classic Fairy Tales: Texts, Criticism*. New York: Norton, pp.10-16, 21-22.

Kaliambou, Maria 2015, Fairy Tale. In Robert Segal, Kocku von Stuckrad (eds.) *Vocabulary for the Study of Religion*. Leiden, Boston: Brill, Volume 2: 1-6.

Week 2 (January 25): Classification of Folktales

Megas, Georgios (ed.) 1970, *Folktales of Greece*. Translated by Helen Colaclides. Foreword by Richard Dorson. Chicago and London: University of Chicago Press, pp. 10-13, 37-46, 70-74, 93-99, 123-127, 143-144, 171-172, 186-192.

- Thompson, Stith 1977 [1946], *The Folktale*. Berkeley: University of California Press, Chapter IV, Classifying Folk Narrative, pp. 413-427.
- Uther, Hans-Jörg 2004, *The Types of International Folktales. A Classification and Bibliography, Based on the System of Antti Aarne and Stith Thompson*. Part I. Helsinki: Suomalainen Tiedekatemia, Academia Scientiarum Fennica, Introduction, pp. 7-15.

Week 3 (February 1): Questions of Genre: What Is a Folktale?

- Dawkins, Richard 1953, *Modern Greek Folktales*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, pp.1-19, 182-189, 227-242, 360-366, 404-407, 473-476.
- Lüthi, Max 1982, *The European Folktale: Form and Nature*. Philadelphia: Institute for the Study of Human Issues, pp. 4-80.

Week 4 (February 8): Performance, Storytellers

- Dorson, Richard 1975, *Folktales Told Around the World*, Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press, pp. 109-118, 132-134.
- Dégh, Linda 1969, *Folktales and Society. Story-telling in a Hungarian Peasant Community*. Translated by Emily M. Schossberger. Bloomington, Indiana University Press, The Storytellers and Mrs. Zsuzsánna Palkó, pp.165-234.

First paper due (February 8)

Part II: Theoretical Approaches

Week 5 (February 15): Formalism

- Garnett, Lucy M.J. 1896, *Greek Folk Poesy: Annotated Translations, from the Whole Cycle of Romaic Folk-Verse and Folk-Prose*. Guildford: Billing and Sons, Vol. II, Folk Prose, pp. 3-27, 120-129, 348-350.
- Propp, Vladimir 1968, *Morphology of the Folktale*. Translated by Laurence Scott [and] with an introd. by Svatava Pirkova-Jakobson. 2d ed., rev. and edited with a pref. by Louis A. Wagner and a new introd. by Alan Dundes. Austin: University of Texas Press, pp. 19-65.
- Pace, David 1982, Beyond Morphology: Lévi-Strauss and the Analysis of Folktales. In Alan Dundes (ed.): *Cinderella. A Folklore Casebook*, pp. 245-258.

Week 6 (February 22): Psychoanalysis

- Tatar, Maria 1999, Snow White, In Tatar, Maria (ed.), *The Classic Fairy Tales: Texts, Criticism*. New York: Norton, pp. 74-100.
- Bettelheim, Bruno 1976, *The Uses of Enchantment: The Meaning and Importance of Fairy Tales*. New York: Knopf, Introduction (pp. 3-19), Snow White (pp. 194-215).
- Barzilai, Shuli 1990, Reading "Snow White". The Mother's Story. *Signs*, Volume 15, Number 3, pp. 515-534.

Week 7 (February 29): Feminism

- Dawkins, Richard 1953, *Modern Greek Folktales*, Oxford: Clarendon Press, pp. 55-69, 113-116, 145-155.
- Rowe, Karen 1999, To Spin a Yarn: The Female Voice in Folklore and Fairy Tale. In Maria Tatar (ed.) *The Classic Fairy Tales: Texts, Criticism*. New York: Norton, pp. 297-308.
- Warner, Marina 1999, The Old Wives' Tale. In Maria Tatar (ed.) *The Classic Fairy Tales: Texts, Criticism*. New York: Norton, pp. 309-317.

Week 8 (March 7): History and Sociology

- Dawkins, Richard 1955, *More Greek Folktales*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, pp. 12-24, 55-58, 87-88, 155-173.
- Darnton, Robert 1999, Peasants Tell Tales: The Meaning of Mother Goose, In Maria Tatar (ed.) *The Classic Fairy Tales*, pp. 280-291.
- Zipes, Jack 1983, Fairy-Tale Discourse: Towards a Social History of the Genre. In Zipes, Jack 1983: *Fairy Tales and the Art of Subversion. The Classical Genre for Children and the Process of Civilization*, London: Heinemann Educational Books, pp. 1-12.

Midterm paper due (March 7)

Part III: Orality versus Literacy

Week 9 (March 28): Oral Folktales or Literary Fairy Tales?

- Zipes, Jack 2001, *The Great Fairy Tale Tradition. From Straparola and Basile to the Brothers Grimm*. New York, London: Norton Company, Disguised Heroes, pp. 159-173.
- Zipes, Jack 2006, *Why Fairy Tales Stick. The Evolution and Relevance of a Genre*. New York: Routledge, Chapter 2, The Evolution and Dissemination of the Classical Fairy Tale, pp. 41-89.

Week 10 (April 4): Brothers Grimm I

- Tatar, Maria 2003, *Hard Facts of the Grimm's Fairy Tales*. Expanded Second Edition. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, Selected Tales from the First Edition of the Nursery and Household Tales, and Prefaces to the First and Second Editions of the Nursery and Household Tales, pp. 243-270.
- Rölleke, Heinz 1988, New Results of Research on Grimm's Fairy Tales. In James McGlathery (ed.) *The Brothers Grimm and Folktale*, Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, pp. 101-111.
- Bottigheimer, Ruth 1988, From Gold to Guilt: The Forces Which Reshaped Grimm's Tales. In James McGlathery (ed.) *The Brothers Grimm and Folktale*. Urbana and Chicago: University of Illinois Press, pp. 192-204.

Week 11 (April 11): Brothers Grimm II

- Zipes, Jack 1992, *The Complete Fairy Tales of the Brothers Grimm*, New York: Bantam Books, pp. 2-20, 227-231, 327-333.

- Haase, Donald 1993, Response and Responsibility in reading Grimm's Fairy Tales. In Donald Haase (ed.) *The Reception of Grimms' Fairy Tales. Responses, Reactions, Revisions*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, pp. 230-249.
- Stone, Kay 1993, Once Upon a Time Today: Grimm Tales for Contemporary Performers. In Donald Haase (ed.) *The Reception of Grimms' Fairy Tales. Responses, Reactions, Revisions*. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, pp. 250-268.

Week 12 (April 18): Chapbooks of Folk and Fairy Tales

- Velay-Vallantin, Catherine 1989, Tales as a Mirror: Perrault in the Bibliothèque bleue. In Roger Chartier (ed.) *The Culture of Print. Power and the Uses in Early Modern Europe*. Translated by Lydia Cochrane. Polity Press, pp. 92-135.
- Kaliambou, Maria 2007, The Transformation of Folktales and Fairy Tales into Popular Booklets. *Marvels and Tales*, Volume 21, Number 1, pp. 50-64.

Week 13 (April 25): and they lived happily ever after...

- Haase, Donald 1999, Yours, Mine or Ours? Perrault, the Brothers Grimm, and the Ownership of Fairy Tales. In Maria Tatar (ed.) *The Classic Fairy Tales: Texts, Criticism*. New York: Norton, pp. 353-364.
- Zipes, Jack 2006, *Why Fairy Tales Stick. The Evolution and Relevance of a Genre*. New York: Routledge, Chapter 3, Once Upon a Time in the Future. The Relevance of Fairy Tales, pp. 91-127.

Final paper due (May 2)