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?

Week 2 (January 25): Classification of Folktales


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


**Week 4 (February 8): Performance, Storytellers**


*First paper due (February 8)*

**Part II: Theoretical Approaches**

**Week 5 (February 15): Formalism**


**Week 6 (February 22): Psychoanalysis**


Week 7 (February 29): Feminism

Week 8 (March 7): History and Sociology

Midterm paper due (March 7)

Part III: Orality versus Literacy

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

Week 10 (April 4): Brothers Grimm I

Week 11 (April 11): Brothers Grimm II

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

*Final paper due (May 2)*