Description:

This course introduces students to cultural inquiry through the example of the Cinderella cycle of stories. Beginning with an historical overview of the origins and diffusion of the story, the course examines folklore scholarship from the latter 1800’s to the early 20th century. We examine culture through anthropological comparisons of tale variants and through the impact of the story on American popular culture. Students in the course will write their own "original" Cinderella story.
Texts:

- [http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/type0510a.html](http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/type0510a.html)
- Other readings available on the Pdrive and as assigned.

Policies:

*Attendance* – Class attendance is required. A legitimate excuse equals something that can be verified as such by the office of the Dean of Students. Trips to the college health center do not necessarily count as excusable absences. This course requires a good deal of discussion and we will complete in-class assignments that will count significantly toward your grade. Official college sports events are, of course, legitimate absences, but student-athletes should communicate clearly to me regarding missed classes. Please look at our class schedule and identify any conflicts by the second week of the semester.

*Academic Integrity* – Academic integrity is the foundation upon which the intellectual endeavors of higher learning rest. Infractions of the college’s academic integrity policy will be dealt with through the Dean of Students’ Office, and will result in failure of the course. Academic integrity means doing your own work and citing the work of others whose words and ideas you borrow. In addition, academic integrity means that students are respectful, challenging, helpful, and curious. When working with others, it means that you are attentive, assertive, and committed to your own and others’ success.

*Persons with Disabilities* - The Americans Disabilities Act mandates accessibility in all aspects of the learning environment. If you have an identified disability and are in need of specific accommodations, please notify the Office of Academic Support Services in Founders Hall and discuss your needs with me at the beginning of the semester.

*Missed Assignments* – I do not accept late assignments without a pre-arranged conversation and a compelling argument.

**Assignments and Grading:**

Readings and discussion 10%
Memoirs Paper 15%
Exam 15%
Illustration Project 15%
Course Project 45%

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*Cinderella*

The prince leans to the girl in scarlet heels,  
Her green eyes slant, hair flaring in a fan  
Of silver as the rondo slows; now reels  
Begin on tilted violins to span

The whole revolving tall glass palace hall  
Where guests slide gliding into light like wine;  
Rose candles flicker on the lilac wall  
Reflecting in a million flagons' shine,

And glided couples all in whirling trance  
Follow holiday revel begun long since,  
Until near twelve the strange girl all at once  
Guilt-stricken halts, pales, clings to the prince

As amid the hectic music and cocktail talk  
She hears the caustic ticking of the clock.

*Sylvia Plath*
Schedule:

Week 1 - Introduction to the course (Jan 18, 20)
- Thompson
- Propp
- Dundes, Introduction

Week 2 – Early versions of the tale (Jan 25, 27)
- Jacobs
- Grimm http://www.pitt.edu/~dash/type0510a.html
- Perrault
- Basile (on p drive)
- Newell (on p drive)

Week 3 – Understanding the tale types (Feb 1, 3)
- Thompson
- Hartland
- Rooth
- Taylor
- Cox
- Hand in: first five references for project

Week 4 – Digging deeper in the Cinderella Story (Feb 8, 10)
- Memoirs Ch 1-5
- Carpenter – two Icelandic variants
- Warner, 1991
- Hand in: five more references for project

Week 5 (Feb 15, 17)
- Memoirs Ch 6-10
- Alidou

Week 6 (Feb 22, 24)
- Memoirs Ch 11-15
- Robbins
- Hand in: five more references for project PLUS draft of your ideas

Week 7 (Mar 1, 3)
- Memoirs Ch 16-20
- Hurley
- Exam on Thursday

Week 8 – Spring Break (Mar 8, 10)

Week 9 (Mar 15, 17)
- Memoirs Ch 21-25
- Pace
- Bettelheim

Week 10 (Mar 22, 24)
- Memoirs Ch 26-30
- Ramanujin
- Rough Draft of your story is due on Thursday

Week 11 (Mar 29, 31)
- Memoirs Ch 31-35

Week 12 (April 5, 7)
- Readings to be announced
- Panttaja

Week 13 – Illustrations (April 12, 14)
- Molly Bang pp 1-54
- Hand in: Memoirs paper, due Tuesday

Week 14 – Illustrations (April 19, 21)
- Molly Bang pp 55-end – Illustrations due on Thursday

Week 15 – Presentations (April 26, 28)

Week 16 – Presentations (May 2)
The Course Project: It’s a Cinderella Story

Learning objectives of the project:
- students will immerse themselves into a particular cultural milieu
- students will engage in serious library scholarship
- students will document sources correctly for the writing of historical fiction

For this project, you will assume the role of a Hollywood writer who is preparing to pitch a new version of Cinderella to a bunch of studios. In so doing, you will produce a carefully created portfolio, with script, stage directions, music, costuming, and other film necessities. Your final project will be a binder that presents the movie as a coherent narrative, with supporting, well cited documentation.

There is one catch: You will set your movie in a time and place that you probably do not know very much about. I will group students together for the purposes of resource sharing – this is not a group project…it is, however, a project on which you will necessarily benefit from talking to others working on similar topics.

In order to complete this project, you will need to do independent research in the college library – you will read books and find old newspaper articles, photos, cultural artifact records, etc. in order to make your setting context authentic. Seeing as how the outline of the story already exists for you, your job is to fill in the exciting details and, who knows, maybe you’ll even make us a picture book or movie trailer.

Every student will present his/her story to the class in the form of a powerpoint or video. Thus, all images, etc., that you find can be scanned directly into your powerpoint or movie for presentation.

Your final project, to be handed to me on the last day of class, will be a three-ring binder which includes the following:

1. An introduction to the tale as you have interpreted it, with references to the tale types that you have followed
2. An author’s note which includes your background, the decisions you made about your narrative, the tale type that you have followed, along with any deviations from that type.
3. A story, written in story format (once upon a time) with illustrations. Your story must adhere to the motifs of the tale type that you have chosen to follow.
4. Footnotes throughout your story, (either in the form of footnotes or endnotes, depending on your own proclivities and presentation style).
5. Illustrations that accompany the story – either embedded in the narrative, or separate, again, depending upon your narrative style.
6. A complete bibliography of all of your sources, including those from electronic databases, movies, music, television, websites, books, magazines articles, scholarly articles, etc. *I expect a minimum of thirty references.* No more than five of which can be from internet sites. You may not use websites that come from “.com” domains.

Group Project: Illustrating Cinderella

In class, we will work through Molly Bang’s *Picture This*. As we do so, I will assign groups (based upon interest) of students who will work together to illustrate their favorite early variant of the tale. Although ample time will be spent in class on illustration work, students will want to
schedule time to work together outside of class as well. The project will be graded on its creative application of Bang’s principles of illustration in addition to the group’s ability to incorporate an interpretive perspective into the illustrations.

Exam:

We will have a midterm exam that will allow you to apply the concepts from many of our readings as they apply to the Cinderella story. This will be an essay exam.

Memoirs Paper:

I will assign a topic for you to write about in regards to the novel Memoirs of a Geisha.