

**Professor Amy Cannon, Thematic Option Honors Program**

**Lecture**      W            5 – 6:50 pm            63573D

**Once Upon a Time, They Lived Happily Ever After: Fairy Tales Told and Retold**

Since time immemorial, we've gathered around the fire and told stories of good rewarded and evil punished, of magical transformations, of true love and terrible villains. What do these fantastical tales have in common? How are our beliefs revealed through the bedtime stories grandmothers tell their grandchildren? And how have these narratives been retold and reshaped to reflect different values over time?

Beginning with the oral tradition of fairy tales the world over and moving into the literary and cinematic canon of the likes of Perrault, the Brothers Grimm, and Walt Disney, we'll weigh different critical approaches to understanding these narratives from feminist, psychoanalytic, and structuralist perspectives, among others. We will take a "choose your own adventure" approach to the fairy tales types that transcend culture—the animal bridegroom, the ogre defeated, riches beyond wildest imagination—and see what they have to offer us.

We'll also ask: are we still telling fairy tales today? Why do so many of our favorite creators rework classic themes of vulnerable orphans and evil stepmothers, plucky heroines and frightening monsters? This semester, we'll ground ourselves in the vast and varied history of the fairy tale and move into contemporary reimagining. We'll engage a wide variety of playwrights, novelists, filmmakers, and more, and ask why we return again and again to these fairy tale tropes, these tales as old as time.

*CORE 200 lasts for twelve weeks (instead of the usual fifteen) and meets once each week for two hours in a seminar setting. The Salon encourages the sharing of ideas and thoughts, highlights common themes and interdisciplinary connections as they emerge from discussion. Discussions that grow out of reading groups can become the starting point for future research. The two-unit Salon is an integral part of the Thematic Approaches to Humanities and Society minor. A special feature of the Reading Salon is that some of the books to be read by the participants will be selected by the students. The course is graded Credit/No Credit.*

**Proposed Texts** *(final list to be determined by the class)*

Angela Carter. *The Bloody Chamber and Other Stories*.  
 Carmen Maria Machado. *Her Body and Other Parties*.  
 Ellen Oh and Elsie Chapman (ed.). *A Thousand Beginnings and Endings*.  
 Helen Oyeyemi. *Mr. Fox*.  
 Maria Tatar (ed.). *The Classic Fairytales*.

**Proposed Films** *(final list to be determined by the class)*

Andrew Adamson and Vicky Jenson, dir. *Shrek*.  
 Tim Burton, dir. *Edward Scissorhands*.  
 Jean Cocteau, dir. *Le Belle et la Bete*.  
 Guillermo del Toro, dir. *Pan's Labyrinth*.  
 Hayao Miyazaki, dir. *Spirited Away*.  
 Michael Powell and Emeric Pressburger, dir. *The Red Shoes*.  
 Steven Sondheim. *Into the Woods*. [Original Broadway Cast Recording]