PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS

Spring 2017
The Grimms’ Fairy Tales: Words and Images
CLS 84
Orrin Robinson and Brigid Barton

Grade Options and Requirements:
- No grade requested (NGR)
  This is the default option. No work will be required; no credit shall be received; no proof of attendance can be provided.
- Credit/No Credit (CR/NC)
  Students must attend at least 80% of class sessions, and are expected to do the readings.
- Letter Grade (A, B, C, D, No Pass)
  Students must attend all class sessions, and write a short (five page) paper that will be due the last night of class. Students choosing this option should meet with the instructors at the latest by the third week of class to discuss possible topics.

Tentative Weekly Outline:

Week 1

Today we introduce you to the Grimms, their personal biographies, and the historical and political context in which they lived and worked. We also discuss the many fields that they contributed to during their long careers.

Fairytale: The Frog King, or Iron Henry.

Illustrator: Walter Crane


Week 2

This week we discuss the origins of the fairytales (Were they oral? Were they originally German? What do the Grimms tell us about these issues?), and the extent to which the Grimms altered them in the seven editions that came out over the space of over four decades. What did their changes consist of, were they substantive, and why did the Grimms make them?

Fairytale: Little Red Riding Hood
Week 3

Partly because they are so simple, the fairytales seem to cry out for interpretation, and many different scholars have had a crack at it, from many different perspectives. Today we will discuss some of them, including the historical, psychoanalytic, and feminist perspectives.

Fairy tales: Hansel and Gretel
    Snow White

Illustrator: Maurice Sendak et al.


Week 4

In this week, we look at gender in the tales from a more linguistic/grammatical perspective. What nouns do the Grimms use for boys and girls, what kinds of names do they have, what adjectives are associated with them, and especially in the case of girls, what pronouns are used to refer to them?

Fairytales: Rapunzel
            Cinderella

Illustrator: Arthur Rackham et al.

Readings: Robinson p. 107-150

Week five:

In this final class, we discuss several filmic interpretations of the fairytales from the 20th/21st centuries. Clips will be shown from early Disney films, more recent Disney films, the Stephen Sondheim musical *Into The Woods*, and fractured fairytales from the Rocky and Bullwinkle TV series.

Readings: Zipes, *The Enchanted Screen*