

SCAN 232 (5) Fall 2003

Hans Christian Andersen and the Fairy Tale Tradition

Mon. & Wed. 2:30 –4:20 in JHN 101

Marianne Stecher-Hansen, Associate Professor

email: marianne@u.washington.edu

Office: 305U Raitt Hall (Mailbox: 318 Raitt Hall; phone: 543-6084)

Office hours: Mondays: 11:30 – 12:20 & Thursdays 1:30 – 2:20

Jakob Stougaard-Nielsen, Visiting Lecturer

email: jakobsn@u.washington.edu

Office: 305S Raitt Hall (Mailbox: 318 Raitt Hall; phone: 685-8741)

Office Hours: Thursdays: 12:00 – 2:00

Required reading:

1. Hans Christian Andersen, *Tales and Stories by Hans Christian Andersen*
2. Jackie Wullschlager, *Hans Christian Andersen: The Life of a Storyteller*
3. Course Reader at AVE COPY (4141 University Way NE, Suite 103)

Course Content

This course offers the opportunity to study the life and work of Hans Christian Andersen. Andersen's stories revolutionized the fairy tale of 19th century European literature. In this course the tales will be explored as windows into the 19th century, an important age of social and political reforms, scientific discoveries, technological innovations, as well as literary developments. The legacy of Andersen and the afterlife of the fairy tale will be studied in relation to 20th century film adaptations.

Hans Christian Andersen was both a product of his time, a Golden Age genius, and a person whose distinctive psychology played an important part in his literary work. Students will be reading Jackie Wullschlager's recent biography of Andersen in preparation for lectures and class discussions; and they will write a paper concerned with the relationship between the writer and his work. Different approaches to reading literary fairy tales will be presented in lectures, and students are encouraged to find inspiration in the interpretations of selected tales featured in the course reader appendix.

Course Objectives:

1. To gain an appreciation and understanding of Andersen's tales in a broad European cultural, historical, and literary context.
2. To introduce critical approaches to literary analysis, and to improve skills for interpreting and writing about literature.
3. To investigate the connections between biography and fiction, using Andersen's life and works as a case-study.
4. To gain a knowledge of the structure and conventions of short prose narratives.

Class Format:

This team-taught course will consist of lectures, small group discussions, film and slide presentations, and a guest-lecture.

Grading Policy:

Grades will be based on two exams, two papers, and participation

20%	Midterm exam	(multiple choice)	<u>October 29</u>
30%	4-5 page essay	(analysis of tales)	<u>November 5</u>
20%	3 -page essay	(essay about biography)	<u>November 24</u>
25%	Final exam	(multiple-choice)	<u>December 15 @ 2:30</u>
5%	Participation	(small group discussion activities)	

(Note! Points will be deducted from late papers)

Course Schedule

SCAN 232

*) Text in Course Reader

Week 1

It's a Question of genre: Folk- and Fairy Tales		
Sept. 29	<i>Topic:</i>	Introduction to Andersen & Course Goals
	<i>Reading:</i>	“The Princess on the Pea“
Oct.1	<i>Topic:</i>	Andersen antecedents and contemporaries
	<i>Reading:</i>	“Aladdin and the Wonderful Lamp,“* “Cinderella,“* “Hansel and Gretel,“* and “East of the Sun and West of the Moon“*
	<i>Comments:</i>	Introduction to <i>Arabian Nights</i> , the Brothers Grimm, Asbjørnsen & Moe etc.

Week 2

Andersen's Early Tales		
Oct. 6	<i>Topic:</i>	Andersen's innovative prose and the Folk Tale
	<i>Reading:</i>	“The Tinderbox,“ “Little Claus and Big Claus,“* and “Little Ida's Flowers“*
	<i>Comments:</i>	Introduction to the Actantial Model and structuralist analysis
Oct. 8	<i>Topic:</i>	Analysis of tales
	<i>Reading:</i>	“The Traveling Companion“ and “Clod-Hans“

Week 3

Andersen and (Auto-) Biography		
Oct. 13	<i>Topic:</i>	Representations of Childhood and Parents
	<i>Reading:</i>	„The Story of My Life“ (Chapters 1-2)*, Wullschlager: <i>The Life of a Storyteller</i> , Chapters 1 & 2, pp. 7-34
	<i>Comments:</i>	Introduction to the Biographical approach. Extracts from Danny Kaye's <i>Hans Christian Andersen</i> are shown
Oct.15	<i>Topic:</i>	Analysis of Auto-biographical tales
	<i>Reading:</i>	“The Ugly Duckling“ and “The Fir Tree”
	<i>Comments:</i>	Film: “H.C. Andersen at the Photographers”

Week 4

Andersen Masterpieces and Critical Approaches: “The Little Mermaid”		
Oct. 20	<i>Topic:</i>	Introduction to “The Little Mermaid”
	<i>Reading:</i>	“The Little Mermaid”
	<i>Comments:</i>	Structuralist Approaches to “The Little Mermaid”
Oct. 22	<i>Topic:</i>	The Little Mermaid II - Other critical interpretations
	<i>Reading:</i>	“The Little Mermaid”
	<i>Comments:</i>	Modern and International Media Adaptations will be shown **Assignment of paper topics for essay #1

Week 5

Andersen Masterpieces and Critical Approaches: “The Snow Queen”		
Oct. 27	<i>Topic:</i>	Introduction to “The Snow Queen”
	<i>Reading:</i>	“The Snow Queen”
	<i>Comments:</i>	Psychoanalysis and literary analysis of “The Snow Queen” Midterm review
Oct. 29	<i>Topic:</i>	MIDTERM EXAM & Discussion of “The Snow Queen”
	<i>Reading:</i>	“The Snow Queen”
	<i>Comments:</i>	Film adaptations of “The Snow Queen” are shown

Week 6

The Art of Translating Andersen		
Nov. 3	<i>Topic:</i>	Guest-Lecture by translator, Tiina Nunnally
	<i>Reading:</i>	“The Wood Nymph,”* ”The Wind Tells of Valdemar Daae and His Daughters,”* and “The Old House”*
	<i>Comments:</i>	Exercise in identifying translation difficulties
Nov. 5	<i>Topic:</i>	Andersen, Art and the Artist
	<i>Reading:</i>	“The Nightingale” and “The Swineherd”
	<i>Comments:</i>	ESSAYS DUE at beginning of class

Week 7

Andersen Masterpieces and Critical Approaches: “The Shadow”		
Nov.10	<i>Topic:</i>	Introduction to “The Shadow”
	<i>Reading:</i>	“The Shadow”
Nov.12	<i>Topic:</i>	“The Shadow” - Other critical interpretations
	<i>Reading:</i>	“The Shadow”
	<i>Comments:</i>	Popular science and psychology in “The Shadow”

Week 8

Social Reform meets Salvation: Denmark’s 19th-century underclass		
Nov.17	<i>Topic:</i>	Literary and artistic representations of the poor
	<i>Reading:</i>	“The Little Match Girl,” “She was no Good,” and “Everything in its Right Place”*
Nov.19	<i>Topic:</i>	Death and the dying child
	<i>Reading:</i>	“The Story of a Mother,” “The Dead Child,”* and “The Angel”*
	<i>Comments:</i>	Film adaptations of “The Angel” and “The Story of a Mother” are shown

Week 9

Andersen Masterpieces and Critical Approaches: “The Story of a Mother”		
Nov.24	<i>Topic:</i>	Reading the allegory and the symbol
	<i>Reading:</i>	“The Story of a Mother”
	<i>Comments:</i>	Final Paper assignment
Nov.26	<i>Topic:</i>	Film: “H.C. Andersen and the Long Shadow”
	<i>Reading:</i>	-

Week 10

Modern meta-texts and Literary Immortality		
Dec. 1	<i>Topic:</i>	Experimental Andersen
	<i>Reading:</i>	“Auntie Toothache,” “The Rose from Homer’s Grave,”* “The Silent Album,”* and “The Pen and the Ink Well”*
Dec. 3	<i>Topic:</i>	Futuristic Andersen and Romancing the New Age
	<i>Reading:</i>	“The Wood Nymph”* and ”The Wind Tells of Valdemar Daae and His Daughters”*

Week 11

Futuristic Andersen and Romancing the New Age		
Dec. 8	<i>Topic:</i>	19th –century Scientific and technological advances
	<i>Reading:</i>	“The Bell”, “The Drop of Water,” “In a Thousand Year’s Time,” ”The Railway,”* and “The Great Sea Serpent”*
	<i>Comments:</i>	Final ESSAY due at beginning of Class. Review Sheet for Final EXAM
Dec.10	<i>Topic:</i>	Modern day Fairy Tales and Fantasy
	<i>Reading:</i>	“Fantasy Literature and Fairy Tales,”* „Film and Fairy Tales,”* and „Walt Disney,”*
	<i>Comments:</i>	The difference between fairy tales and fantasy. Examples from <i>Lord of the Rings</i> , <i>Harry Potter</i> , and Walt Disney.

Monday, Dec. 15th, 2:30 pm
FINAL EXAMINATION
COURSE EVALUATIONS

Dec. 22
Grades Posted