

**Feminism and Fairytales:
Exploring *Ella Enchanted***

IDH 2930
Spring 2025

Katherine Lynch
Peer Instructor
katherinelynch@ufl.edu

Phone: (417) 988-5383

Office Location: Walker Hall 102

Office Hours: Thursdays 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Dr. Emily Bald
Faculty Supervisor/Co-instructor
ebald@ufl.edu

Phone: (352) 846-1138

Office Location: Turlington Hall 2215 B

Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:30-1:30 p.m.

Class Location: Little Hall 119
Class Time: Thursdays 9:35-10:25 a.m.

Welcome to IDH 2930, Feminism and Fairytales: Exploring *Ella Enchanted*! I am excited to have each of you in the course this semester and collectively explore what exactly is a 'feminist fairytale' and the cultural gender and social norms implicit within these fantastical pieces of fiction. This syllabus provides an overview of the course. Please review and reach out with any questions. I look forward to getting to know you and working with you throughout the semester!

Course Objectives

1. Analyze works of literature using a feminist critical lens through a close reading of Brothers Grimm' *Cinderella* and Gail Carson Levine's *Ella Enchanted*.
2. Identify textual instances of gender representation, power dynamics, and agency through a close reading of assigned works.
3. Use the learned skills of feminist critical analysis to create a feminist re-telling of your own.
4. Ultimately decide through self-reflection and group discussion if feminist retellings challenge or reinforce traditional gender norms.

Required Textbook

Gail Carson Levine's *Ella Enchanted*. First Ed.

Supplemental Readings*

**All supplemental readings will be made available in Canvas or provided in class*

Brothers Grimm, *Cinderella*

Neikirk, "...*Happily Ever After*" (or *What Fairytales Teach Girls About Being Women*)

Haase, *Feminist Fairy-tale Scholarship*

Joosen, *Fairy-tale Retellings between Art and Pedagogy*

Course Schedule

Week	Assigned Reading(s)	Topic/Objective
Week 1 – Drop/Add	None	Icebreakers! Class will establish discussion rules & etiquette
Week 2 (20-24)	None	In-class group feminist critical analysis of <i>Cinderella</i> to learn literary analysis techniques
Week 3	Rest of Brothers Grimm <i>Cinderella</i> not analyzed in class	Group discussion to identify themes, norms, and agency present in Grimm Brothers' <i>Cinderella</i>
Week 4	Neikirk, “... <i>Happily Ever After</i> ” (or <i>What Fairytales Teach Girls About Being Women</i>)	Discussion over Neikirk's piece and its relevance the gender roles present within Grimm Brothers' <i>Cinderella</i>
Week 5	Haase, <i>Feminist Fairy-tale Scholarship</i>	Discussion over Haase's piece, the concept of a feminist fairy tale, and its relevance to the Grimm Brothers' <i>Cinderella</i>
Week 6	<i>Ella Enchanted</i> Ch. 1-3	Group discussion to identify themes, norms, and agency present in <i>Cinderella</i> ; In-class activity creating a compare-and-contrast diagram of <i>Ella Enchanted</i> and <i>Cinderella</i>
Week 7	<i>Ella Enchanted</i> Ch. 4-7	Continuing <i>Ella Enchanted</i> ; in-class activity over the gender roles and expectations within the text
Week 8	<i>Ella Enchanted</i> Ch. 8-11	Continuing <i>Ella Enchanted</i> ; Group activity and/or discussion over agency

Week 9	Joosen, <i>Fairy-tale Retellings between Art and Pedagogy</i>	Supplemental reading will showcase how themes in children's literature can form societal expectations and norms
Week 10	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
Week 11	<i>Ella Enchanted</i> Ch. 12-15	Discussion of final project; continuing discussion of <i>Ella Enchanted</i>
Week 12	<i>Ella Enchanted</i> Ch. 16-19	Continuing <i>Ella Enchanted</i> ; in-class activity mapping the power structures between characters
Week 13	<i>Ella Enchanted</i> Ch. 20-25	Discuss and determine if <i>Ella Enchanted</i> succeeded or failed to be a feminist retelling
Week 14	None	Final Project demonstration

*Note—Topics and content of syllabus are subject to change and not finalized.

Evaluation and Assessment

Full descriptions of and rubrics for assignments will be available through Canvas.

Participation and Attendance (20%)

As this is a discussion-based course, attendance and engagement with classmates and the course materials is paramount for success in the course. As such, attendance at all class meetings is expected. If a class must be missed, please see the attendance and make-up policy below for more information.

Weekly Reflections (40%)

Each week, students will have the opportunity to complete a reflection over the course materials discussed in that week. In this assignment, students will reflect on how these literary themes and gender roles expand to society or to their own thinking. The reflection is open to be submitted every week, but only 8 are required for the course. So, students may choose what week and topic to reflect upon. Each reflection is roughly one page double-spaced and counted as 5% of the course grade.

Final Project — Creation of a Feminist Fairytale Retelling (40%)

For the final project, students will find a fairy or folk tale not discussed in class. Then, they will use their learned skills of feminist literary analysis and identify the gender roles, agency, and themes present in the work. Then, they will re-write the story to become a feminist fairytale. While you must demonstrate your literary analysis of the original fairy or folk tale, your final project can take the form of any creative expression: a paper, art piece, presentation, podcast, etc. The students will present their feminist retellings on the last day of class.

Grading Scale:

93 to 100 A
90 to <93 A-
87 to <90 B+
83 to <87 B
80 to <83 B-
77 to <80 C+
73 to <77 C
70 to <73 C-
67 to <70 D+
63 to <67 D
60 to <63 D-
<60 Not passing

Details on UF's grading policies for assigning grade points can be found in the undergraduate catalogue available here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Academic Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<https://policy.ufl.edu/regulation/4-040/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Attendance and Make-Up Work

If a class must be missed, please let me know as soon as possible so that arrangements can be made. In general, make-up work is not accepted unless arrangements have been made. However, please reach out if you need assistance. Class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies. [Click here to read the university attendance policies.](#)

Disability Resource Center

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by

visiting <http://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started>. It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Online Evaluation

Students are expected to provide professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of course evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

In-Class Recording

Students are allowed to record video or audio of class lectures. However, the purposes for which these recordings may be used are strictly controlled. The only allowable purposes are (1) for personal educational use, (2) in connection with a complaint to the university, or (3) as evidence in, or in preparation for, a criminal or civil proceeding. All other purposes are prohibited. Specifically, students may not publish recorded lectures without the written consent of the instructor.

A “class lecture” is an educational presentation intended to inform or teach enrolled students about a particular subject, including any instructor-led discussions that form part of the presentation, and delivered by any instructor hired or appointed by the University, or by a guest instructor, as part of a University of Florida course. A class lecture does not include lab sessions, student presentations, clinical presentations such as patient history, academic exercises involving solely student participation, assessments (quizzes, tests, exams), field trips, private conversations between students in the class or between a student and the faculty or lecturer during a class session.

Publication without permission of the instructor is prohibited. To “publish” means to share, transmit, circulate, distribute, or provide access to a recording, regardless of format or medium, to another person (or persons), including but not limited to another student within the same class section. Additionally, a recording, or transcript of a recording, is considered published if it is posted on or uploaded to, in whole or in part, any media platform, including but not limited to social media, book, magazine, newspaper, leaflet, or third party note/tutoring services. A student who publishes a recording without written consent may be subject to a civil cause of action instituted by a person injured by the publication and/or discipline under UF Regulation 4.040 Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code.

Honors Program Specific Information

A minimum grade of B is required to earn Academic points towards Honors Completion Requirements. (Exception: Honors Quest I and II sections require a C). Once you have earned your final grade in this course, please upload the course information and final grade from your Unofficial Transcript into your Honors Canvas Cohort: Honors Completion module to earn Honors Completion credit.

Honors Program Contact Information

Honors Program, 201 Walker Hall, 352-392-1519

Quick questions for an Honors advisor? Email advisor@honors.ufl.edu

Need an Honors advising appointment? Schedule via Microsoft

Bookings: <https://bit.ly/ufhonorsadvising>

Additional Resources

Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help may contact:

U Matter, We Care: If you or someone you know is in distress, please contact umatter@ufl.edu, 352-392-1575, or visit [U Matter, We Care website](#) to refer or report a concern and a team member will reach out to the student in distress.

Counseling and Wellness Center: [Visit the Counseling and Wellness Center website](#) or call 352-392-1575 for information on crisis services as well as non-crisis services.

Student Health Care Center: Call 352-392-1161 for 24/7 information to help you find the care you need, or [visit the Student Health Care Center website](#).

University Police Department: [Visit UF Police Department website](#) or call 352-392-1111 (or 9-1-1 for emergencies).

UF Health Shands Emergency Room / Trauma Center: For immediate medical care call 352-733-0111 or go to the emergency room at 1515 SW Archer Road, Gainesville, FL 32608; [Visit the UF Health Emergency Room and Trauma Center website](#).

GatorWell Health Promotion Services: For prevention services focused on optimal wellbeing, including Wellness Coaching for Academic Success, visit the [GatorWell website](#) or call 352-273-4450.

E-learning technical support: Contact the [UF Computing Help Desk](#) at 352-392-4357 or via e-mail at helpdesk@ufl.edu.

Career Connections Center: Reitz Union Suite 1300, 352-392-1601. Career assistance and counseling services.

Library Support: Various ways to receive assistance with respect to using the libraries or finding resources.

Teaching Center: Broward Hall, 352-392-2010 or to make an appointment 352-392-6420. General study skills and tutoring.

Writing Studio: 2215 Turlington Hall, 352-846-1138. Help brainstorming, formatting, and writing papers.

Student Complaints On-Campus: [Visit the Student Honor Code and Student Conduct Code webpage for more information](#).