GRMN 3055

Texts: 1. Jacob und Wilhelm Grimm: Deutsche Kinder- und Hausmaerchen. 1812.

2. Heinz Roelleke: Die Maerchen der Brueder Grimm. Eine Einfuehrung.

Reclam Verlag, ISBN: 978-3-15-017650-4.

This course will acquaint students with the cultural and historic significance of Fairy Tales, and define this genre as opposed to epic poetry, legends or similar forms of writing. We will discuss the period in which the brothers Grimm collected the fairy tales, the particular circumstances of their selection, their similarity to fairy tales of other European countries, and the success story of the published collection.

We will attempt to understand the immense effect of fairy tales based on their topics, stylistic conventions, and implied psychological *topoi*. Much of this serves as the foundation for the continued fascination with these stories as evidenced in their use in such divergent areas as operas, advertisement, and movies.

Week 1

Introduction to the genre and comparison with related genres, including “Volksbuecher, Sagen, Legenden.”

Week 2

The Brothers Grimm: their life and times. The German Romantic period and its focus on “Volk”.

Week 3

The history of the genre “Maerchen;” sources of the Grimm Brothers; important collaborators.

Week 4

Development of the “Kinder-und Hausmaerchen” in their various editions; reading and interpretation of selected “Maerchen.”

Week 5

Sources, age and meaning of the Fairy Tales

Week 6

Hoistory of the reception, in Germany and abroad

Week 7/8

Fairy Tales as „Kunstmaerchen,“ by authors including H.C. Andersen, L. Bechstein, L. Hauff. Fairy Tales in operas, dramas, ballets and other art forms. Pictorial representation of Fairy Tales (e.g. Ludwig Richter, Moritz von Schwind u.a.)

Week 9

The Fairy Tales in commercial usage: in advertisements; product names etc.;

Week 10

The Fairy Tales and their motives as interpreted by Psychiatry: S. Freud, C.G. Jung; Bruno Bettelheim;

Week 11

Fairy Tales in Musical Settings: Mozart (Magic Flute); Wagner (Flying Dutchman); Humperdinck (Haensel and Gretel)

Week 12/13

Walt Disney and the Fairy Tales

Week 14/15

Fairy Tales: are they appropriate for children? For our time?