

Toy Media

Meeting Times and Place: 2:15-3:30 pm MW, 113 Orlando Hall
 Office Hours: 2-5 T, 12:30-2 pm M, 3:30-5 pm W, and by appointment
 Office: Carnegie 102
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This course looks at how technologies of animation (toy media) have penetrated literary works and other media from the 19th century to the twenty-first century.. We will look at highly gendered toys, such as Barbie and action figures. We will also examine the phenomenon of the child star—Shirley Temple, Michael Jackson, Honey Boo Boo as types of miniaturized or toy adults. You will write two critical essays (5-7 pages) that engage in close readings of literary works, film, and media from the class—concerning toys. You will be assessed on how well you are able to develop a critical essay, sustain a coherent and cohesive argument, and employ a critical vocabulary about literary works. You will also be assessed on how well you are able to incorporate key critical concepts from critical readings about literature and culture in oral presentations and an exam.

Required Texts:

JM Barrie *Peter Pan*
Lars and the Real Girl (2007)
Her (2013)
A.I. (2001)
Hook (1991)

Additional readings will be available on Blackboard; you will receive others in class handouts. You are responsible for retrieving and completing all of the readings.

Grading and Assignments:

Presentations/Panel	15%
Attendance/Participation	15%
Essay 1	20%
Midterm Exam	20%
Final Essay	25%
Final Presentations	5%

Grade distribution

A 92.5-100	B+ 86.5-89.49	C+ 76.5-79.49	etc.
A- 89.5-92.49	B 82.5-86.49	C 72.5-76.49	
	B- 79.5-82.49	C- 69.5-72.49	

Official Policies

ROLLINS ACADEMIC HONOR CODE

Membership in the student body of Rollins College carries with it an obligation, and requires a commitment, to act with honor in all things. Because academic integrity is fundamental to the pursuit of knowledge and truth and is the heart of the academic life of Rollins College, it is the responsibility of all members of the College community to practice it and to report apparent violations.

The following pledge is a binding commitment by the students of Rollins College:

The development of the virtues of Honor and Integrity are integral to a Rollins College education and to membership in the Rollins College community. Therefore, I, a student of Rollins College, pledge to show my commitment to these virtues by abstaining from any lying, cheating, or plagiarism in my academic endeavors and by behaving responsibly, respectfully and honorably in my social life and in my relationships with others.

This pledge is reinforced every time a student submits work for academic credit as his/her own. Students shall add to all papers, quizzes, tests, lab reports, etc., the following handwritten abbreviated pledge followed by their signature:

“On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance on this work.”

Material submitted electronically should contain the pledge; submission implies signing the pledge.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Rollins College is committed to equal access and does not discriminate unlawfully against persons with disabilities in its policies, procedures, programs or employment processes. The College recognizes its obligations under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to provide an environment that does not discriminate against persons with disabilities.

If you are a person with a disability on this campus and anticipate needing any type of academic accommodations in order to participate in your classes, please make timely arrangements by disclosing this disability in writing to the Disability Services Office at (box 2613) - Thomas P. Johnson Student Resource Center, 1000 Holt Ave., Winter Park, FL, 37289 or call 407-646-2354 for an appointment.

ENGLISH DEPART POLICY ON EVENING CLASSES:

English courses commencing at 4:00 p.m. and later follow Hamilton Holt School policies. To meet the number of contact hours required for Holt courses, evening classes offered once a week meet fifteen times during the term. While Arts and Sciences classes cancel meetings for scheduled breaks (i.e. Fall Break), unscheduled breaks (i.e. Fox Day), and reading days, students enrolled in evening courses are required to meet during those times. In evening courses, final examinations will be administered during the fifteenth meeting of the semester. In day courses, final examinations will be administered as designated by the Arts and Sciences final examination schedule.

IMPORTANT DATES

Drop/Add:	Monday, August 25, through Friday, August 29
Credit/No Credit Deadline	Friday, September 5
Drop without Penalty Deadline	Friday, October 31

Class Requirements:

Attendance:

Absence policy: After one absence your participation and potentially your entire course grade will drop. In other words, you have one pass throughout the term, so use them wisely.

Here is what is considered an absence:

- 1) leaving class halfway through for an appointment
- 2) arriving in class more than five minutes late
- 3) not attending a class

You will be marked absent for any of these reasons. If for some reason, you have to leave class, please be as discreet as possible.

Also being considered absolutely present entails the following

- 1) no texting
- 2) no searching web during class discussion/no open laptops without permission
- 3) no excessive breaks

Please notify me if “extraordinary” circumstances prevent you from following this policy (illness/flu).

Missing three or more class sessions may result in failure of the class.

Email is the official means of communication at Rollins. Therefore, you are responsible for checking your accounts regularly.

If there is a change in the class assignment or any other shift, you will be informed via email.

Readings: You are responsible for completing all of the readings on time. Come to class with questions about readings; since this is a discussion-based class, come ready to speak.

You will need to retrieve some of the class readings through Blackboard (Course Documents) and other online. You should download and print out all of these readings and bring them to class.

Films: You are responsible for viewing all assigned film. A number of the films are available on 3-hour reserve at Olin Library. Other films and videos are available on youtube as indicated in the course schedule.

Presentations/Panel:

You will give 20-30-minute discussion on your ideas about the films and readings during the course of the term. Each member of the group should take a slightly different position in reading a scene from a film or video or novel. As a class, we should feel that we are witnessing a high-level discussion on the topic in which members of your group question each other’s views. After your discussion, the class will comment on your ideas (agree or disagree), and ask you further questions about your particular views.

__Keep within the time limit (I may stop you after 30 minutes)

__Ask each other significant questions that lead to class discussion of the texts

__Provide a compelling handout with thoughtful questions and quotes

Papers:

Paper 1: 3-4 pages

Paper 2: 5-7pages. (2 outside sources required) You will receive these assignments at a later date.

Midterm Essay Exam: Choice of several essays on the readings to date.

Group/Individual Project:

In groups or individually, you will do a short performance piece or project in relationship to one of the texts from class on the last day. You can dramatically read or act out a scene from one of the readings. Have fun with it!

Course Schedule:

Note: The schedule subject to change. Some material may be added, and some material may take us longer than expected to cover. If so, a new schedule will be distributed in the class and be available on Blackboard.

Week 1:

8/25 Introduction

8/27 Baudelaire "A Philosophy of Toys" (blackboard course documents)

Week 2 Essay 1 handout

9/1 Labor Day/ No Class

9/3 Honeyman, "Manufactured Agency and the Playthings Who Dream It for Us" (blackboard); *The Velveteen Rabbit* by Margery Williams;

<http://digital.library.upenn.edu/women/williams/rabbit/rabbit.html>

Week 3

9/8 Freud, *Essay on the Uncanny* (blackboard); *Alma* (animated short film by Rodrigo Blaas) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tECaYQ1AzkM>
Uncanny Valley

9/10 *Visit by Janeé Baugher*

Week 4

9/14 Peter Pan/ J.M. Barrie free download on Kindle/project Gutenberg
<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/16/16-h/16-h.htm>

Jonathan Padley, "Peter Pan: Indefinition Defined" (blackboard)

9/16 Jenny Boully "Peter Pan" excerpts on blackboard
Hook (1991) at library.

Week 5:

9/22 Lady Gaga *Telephone* and *Bad Romance* (on youtube)

Camille Paglia on Gaga:

<http://www.thesundaytimes.co.uk/sto/public/magazine/article389697.ece>

Jack Halbertram "You Cannot Gaga Gaga" <http://gagajournal.blogspot.com/2010/04/you-cannot-gaga-gaga.html>

9/24 Class Cancelled

Week 6:

9/29 Anna Anthropy *Rise of the Videogame Zinesters*

first 4 chapters. Access the ebook book at Olin library:

<http://library.rollins.edu/uhtbin/cgiirsi/x/0/0/5?searchdata1=ocn794846525>

Dys4ia (a game by Anna Anthropy) access at :

<http://www.newgrounds.com/portal/view/591565>

Review of dys4ia: <http://gamechurch.com/playing-at-empathy-anna-anthropys-dys4ia/>

10/1 Guess Speaker: David Moran on gaming

Week 7 Paper 1 due!

10/6 Tiptree, "The Girl who was Plugged In"

<http://hell.pl/agnus/anglistyka/2211/james%20Tiptree%20jr%20-%20The%20Girl%20Who%20Was%20Plugged%20In.htm>

Anime girl: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AmXeQzbHwjo>

Bjork: All is Full of Love: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EjAoBKagWQA>

10/8 film: *Of Dolls and Murder*

http://www.snagfilms.com/films/title/of_dolls_and_murder

; excerpt from Guess, Doll Studies: Forensics (Blackboard)

Week 8

10/13 Fall Break/No Class

10/15 Midterm exam

Week 9 Barbie

10/20 A.M. Homes "A Real Doll" (blackboard) "Barbie" Stella Padnos:

http://www.smartishpace.com/issues/issue_3/barbie/

Bell "There's Something about Barbie" (blackboard)

10/22 "Bootleg of *Superstar: The Karen Carpenter Story* by Todd Haynes

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rACJWPd3VnI>

Hans Bellmer doll art: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7OmW3fUAzo8>

Desjardins, "The Incredible Shrinking Star: Todd Haynes and the Case History of Karen Carpenter" (blackboard)

Week 10

10/27

Film: *Lars And the Real Girl* (Olin reserve); Markotic, "PUNCHING UP THE STORY: Disability and Film"

10/29

Wendy Varney, "Of Men and Machines: Images of Masculinity in Boys' Toys" (blackboard)
Youtube GI JOE clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ogEtfldgipY>
"The Steadfast Tin Soldier," Hans Christian Anderson
http://www.andersen.sdu.dk/vaerk/hersholt/TheSteadfastTinSoldier_e.html

Find images/examples of toys marketed to boys. Bring to class!

Week 11 Child Stars

11/3 Excerpt from Toni Morrison, "The Bluest Eye" (blackboard)
Merish, "Cuteness and Commodity Aesthetics: Tom Thumb and Shirley Temple" (blackboard).

Shirley Temple: *War Babies*: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ECzC7YIt7F4>

11/5

Giroux, "Nymphet Fantasies: Child Beauty Pageants and the Politics of Innocence"

Honey Boo Boo *Toddler's and Tiara's* clip: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0InUDCsMhrY>

South Park excerpt from Honey Boo Boo: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7tl4jIUDy5o>

Watch clips from *Here Comes Honey Boo Boo*

Week 12

11/10

Anne Allison: "Tamagotchi" (blackboard)

Anne Allison: "The Pokemonization of America" (blackboard)

Mighty Morphin Power Rangers episode 1:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=njOhjV9D-FU>

Tamagotchi Let's Go: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VWFjtQSVLrU>

Pokemon animated tv show: episode 42

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J0QOXTAAcIQ>

11/12 Video: *The Birth of Astroboy*

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_detailpage&v=esbPHb9EOcY

Allison "From Ashes to Cyborgs" (blackboard)

Harvey, Excerpt from *Modern Life* (blackboard)

Week 13:

11/17

On Michael Jackson, Margo Jefferson (blackboard)

Videos TBA: *Black or White*; excerpt from history video/ video re Michael Jackson/Martin Bashir

11/19

Bring and discuss a toy from your own childhood. (2-page analysis)

Week 14

11/24 Discuss Spielberg's *A.I. (Olin reserve)*

Nishime "The Mulatto Cyborg: Imagining a Multiracial Future" (blackboard)

11/26 Thanksgiving Break

Week 15

12/1 *Her* Spike Jonze

Tofts “Avatars of the tortoise: life, longevity and simulation” (blackboard)

Jonze

12/3 Final Presentations

Final essays due in my office by 5 pm, Dec. 10