

GRMN2503-880

Fairy Tales of Germany



Fall 2021

Dr. Adrienne Merritt

T/Th 9:35–10:50am

CLRE 209

This course serves as an introduction to the fairy tales of the Grimm brothers, both their historical and present-day reception, as well as the cultural significance and stylistic and thematic formulations of Grimm's versions of the tales. The primary texts include, but also extend far beyond the tales popularized by the Brothers Grimm. We will explore and discuss the origins of these tales, from their roots in oral tradition, the development of the literary genre in the nineteenth century, and their afterlife in adaptation, from opera to Disney to gaming. How have the Grimm's fairy tales transformed over time? In what ways have these tales been politicized for various means? How do adaptations of fairy tales influence popular culture and, in some cases, everyday life (i.e. the fairy tale wedding, romance or love story)? How were these fairy tales interpreted by other cultures and what are similar versions of these tales in other cultures? These questions and others will be addressed throughout the course.