Course title (English): The Golden Age of British Children’s Literature

Course title (Hebrew): תור הזהב של ספרות הילדים הבריטית

Course number: 132-1-0532

Course slot (semester/s, weekday/s, hours): Semester A, Thursdays 10-12

Lecturer: Prof. Eitan Bar-Yosef

Lecturer’s conference hour and contact details: Mondays 11-12 or by appointment: eby@bgu.ac.il

Course description & objectives:
Known as the “Golden Age” of British Children’s Literature, the period stretching from the mid-nineteenth century to the first decades of the twentieth century saw the publication of groundbreaking works for children, which have swiftly become classics. Reading works such as The Secret Garden, The Wind in the Willows and Peter and Wendy, the course explores the various aesthetic, cultural, and historical contexts in which these texts were written, while tracing the literary construction of childhood and the child (including elements such as innocence, imagination, and sentimentality).

Course requirements:

Attendance is required
- Responses on Moodle: 15%
- Class presentation: 10%
- Final paper (6-8 pages): 75%

Topics & bibliography:

- Introduction: What is Children’s Literature?
- The “Golden Age” of British Children’s Literature
- Reading classics
- Student presentations

Primary texts

- Lewis Carroll, Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland (1865)
- J. M. Barrie, Peter and Wendy (1904/1911)
- E. Nesbit, The Story of the Amulet (1906)
- Kenneth Grahame, The Wind in the Willows (1908)
- Frances Hodgson Burnett, The Secret Garden (1911)