

# A Possible Course Syllabus

## Part 1: Language in Cultural Context

### A. Gender--constructions of masculinity and femininity

"Beauty and the Beast" will form the core of this unit. There are so many text types associated with this topic, that the problem will be to keep the possibilities under control. I would give some grounding to this unit by looking at the Cupid and Psyche myth and then examining the fairy tale *La Belle et la Bete* as abridged by Jeanne-Marie Le Prince de Beaumont 1756 (and the original by Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve 1740, if I can get copies). At some point I also want to cover the short story by Angela Carter: *The Courtship of Mr. Lyon*. I would do two film versions, varying in time and place. One sub-unit might be to have students explore other versions and report back to the class. This would be a good area for FOAs and even the Written task.

- East of the Sun and West of the Moon - Norse
- The Scarlet Flower - Russia
- The Fairy Serpent -China
- The Princess and the Pig - Turkey
- A Bunch of Laurel Blooms for a Present - Appalachia
- The Small Tooth Dog - England
- The Lizard Husband - Indonesia
- The Monkey Son-in Law - Japan
- Other variations as accessible

A second sub-unit would be to look at various text types that have been generated from this tale:

- theatre
- opera
- poetry
- paintings
- articles and reviews
- television programs (e.g. HBOs "Happily Ever After: Fairy Tales for Every Child set in equatorial Africa)
- cartoons
- books
- graphic novels
- games
- wikis
- commercial products
- advertising

The exploration of these text types will again open the way for a variety of classroom activities and assignments and offer room for FOAs and Written tasks.











#### The Images

- Cover of Vogue Magazine
- picture from American Repertory Ballet's Beauty and the Beast
- Old coloring book of fairy tales
- Disney Belle doll
- Add for Mustang convertible
- Graphic novel
- Beauty and the Beast by William Solis (acrylic on canvas 7)
- Fan Art by Hypnotic Turtle (Breaking Dawn parody)
- Fan Art by 'JohnSu: "In my opinion, the saddest part of the movie wasn't when he lay dying in the rain, but when his awesome visage was destroyed and replaced with that of a hideous man-thing."
- Movie poster--Korean
- Movie poster--Republic pictures

Obviously, other Part 1 topics will come into play such as sexuality, social relations, belief, the individual, etc. And these could be pursued by various students.

The variety of texts available for this topic certainly allows for the learning outcomes of seeing how audience and purpose affect the structure and content of texts, how the impact of language changes from written text, to visual text, to electronic text, and demonstrate how language and meaning are shaped by culture and content.

This unit could expand into a full semester or be shared with this second possible approach.