Instructor: Francisco Vaz da Silva (fgvs@iscte.pt)

Prerequisites: Stúdentspróf (Baccalaureat).

Evaluation: A project (on March 19), and a final paper (maximum length 5,000 words) to be emailed by April 3, 2011.

Course description: This course is an introduction to the study of traditional symbolism in European wondertales. After spelling out some theoretical notions — “traditional,” “symbolism,” “allomotific interpretation,” paradigmatic analysis” — a hands-on approach to specific clusters of tales is offered. By and by, underlying symbolic patterns are delineated and discussed.

Session 1 (March 12): Tradition and symbolic patterns

Tradition. Interpretation by allomotifs. Paradigmatic analysis.

Readings

Session 2 (March 13): Symbolic patterns in Little Red Riding Hood (ATU 333)

Theme and variations, from oral tradition to contemporary short stories.

Readings

Session 3 (March 19): Short experiments

1. Student project presentations.
2. Symbolic patterns in the Grimms’ Cinderella cycle.

Readings
1. Tale variants: Grimm # 21, 24, 65, 179.

Session 4 (March 20): What are wondertales about?

1. In, and around, the forest hut.

Readings
1. Tale variants (ATU 451, ATU 459A): Asbjørnsen & Moe; Basile # 4, 8; Grimm # 9, 25, 49, 53; Luzel, Massignon; Webster 1, 2.

2. Final discussion.