Fall 2015
Ramapo College Honors Program
HNRS 101 Course Descriptions

Course: HNRS 101: Once Upon a Time: An Exploration of the Fairy Tale
Professor: Dr. Yvette Kisor
Time: Tuesday/Friday 1:00 pm – 2:50 pm

Course Description: This course will take as its focus a genre that is spread across cultures and times: the fairy tale. We will focus on a number of classic fairy tales and examine their cultural variants as well as their modern adaptations. Our approach is diachronic and interdisciplinary and we will explore fairy tales through a number of critical lenses, including the socio-cultural, structuralist, psychoanalytic, and feminist, as well as those of folklore and film studies.

Course: HNRS 101: Literature of the Atlantic
Professor: Dr. Edward Shannon
Time: Tuesday/Friday 3:15 pm – 5:05 pm

Course Description: When did what we think of the “Modern World” begin? When our ideas of freedom, democracy, and human rights become the taken-for-granted basics of our everyday lives? And when did we begin producing literature that expressed those beliefs. This course will look at literature produced in the The Atlantic World, that is literature produced by who lived in the Brave New World created by what is often called the “Columbian Exchange”: the exchange of products, people of culture between the Americas, Europe, and Africa. We will read texts from Europe, the United States, Africa, and the Caribbean over the past five hundred years. These texts will include contemporary novels like like The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao or 18th and 19th century slave narratives like The History of Mary Prince and The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African. We will also screen films and perhaps read graphic novels relevant to the subject.