



Hogwarts at Home: Harry Potter and the Socially Distant Online Course

Finally. Your owl has arrived. Beginning this summer, The Rosenbach is using Zoom as a portal to the Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry and the magical world it serves. We'll meet online every month to discuss the entire Harry Potter series.

There's no question that Harry Potter, an adolescent boy who began with little more than challenging relatives and an interesting scar, has changed the world of children's literature. It can be argued that he has, in a pretty vivid (bookish!) way, changed the world. Regardless, Harry occupies a permanent and elevated place in the pantheon of literature, as the keystone of this sharp, incredibly easy-to-read, modern fairytale series about magic and growing up and making an enormous difference to the world around you just by doing the right thing. This is a course about exploring what makes a seemingly simple novel so popular—and potentially so important and enduring, using this iconic seven-book series as our primary material. We will also read a selection of complementary pieces, i.e. classic fairy- and folktales, critical commentary on the

series, and excerpts from other works in the Potter canon. There will be lots of reading, lively pondering, and livelier discussion. There might even be some spellcraft. Or chocolate frogs.

Previous reading of the series is not necessary. It's enough that you've come to it now. All meetings will be held on Zoom (you'll receive the link via email) from 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm.

Syllabus:

Jul 22: Lumos

Introduction to each other, the history of children's literature, and the Boy Who Lived (and lived and lived...)

Aug 19: Alohomora

Book 1: *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*

Sep 23: Colloportus

Book 2: *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*

Oct 21: Expecto Patronum

Book 3: *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*

Nov 18: Portus

Book 4: *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*

Dec 16: Impedimenta

Book 5: *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*

Jan 27: Priori Incantato

Book 6: *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*

Feb 17: Finite Incantatum

Book 7: *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*

Instructor: Melissa Jensen is a Lecturer in English at the University of Pennsylvania, where she specializes in Children's and Adolescent Literature.