

Department of English & Writing Studies

Speculative Fiction: Fantasy
English 2072G (650)
Winter 2023

Instructor : G. Ceraldi

Delivery Type: Online

Course Description

Wizards, vampires, fairies, and the Chosen One – these figures are no longer confined to a genre ghetto but have instead moved to the mainstream. This course examines the roots of the fantasy genre in novels such as Dracula and The Lord of the Rings and considers how the tropes of the genre have been reproduced and transformed by authors like J.K. Rowling and Susanna Clarke. We will examine the continuing appeal of stories about magic, whether they involve supernatural intrusions, visits to the realm of faerie, or extraordinary powers hidden in apparently ordinary places.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course, the successful student will be able to:

- x Place individual texts into the context of the fantasy genre as a whole;
- x Identify and analyze the basic elements of literature such as plot, character, point of view, theme, setting, imagery, and diction;
- x Understand the political, religious, moral, and philosophical underpinnings of the texts on the course;
- x

Methods of Evaluation

Essay # 1 (1000-1250 words / 4 pages)	25%	Due end of Week 5
Essay # 2 (1500-1750 words / 6 pages)	35%	Due end of Week 10
Final Exam	30%	
Forum Posts	10%	Due end of Week 12

Discussion questions are posted on the Forums board, and you may post your answers anytime prior to the end of the week on which that text is scheduled.

Reading Schedule

(Consult Schedule for exact dates):

Introduction

Essay Format and Citation

Your essays must follow MLA (Modern Language Association) format. There is a guide on page 9 of this syllabus that covers some of the common elements of MLA citation; if you have questions that are not answered in that guide, you can consult the Purdue OWL MLA guide at the following address: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

Please use a 12-point Times Roman font.

Regarding citations and avoiding plagiarism, the basic rule to follow is that you must indicate the source of any idea and any worlds that are not your own—whether you are quoting directly or paraphrasing. As well, your Works Cited list should include all sources that you cite in and consulted for your essay, including footnotes/endnotes, dictionaries, and internet material.

Since English 2072F/G is an English literature course, you will be evaluated based on your ability to write clear, well-argued essays. Elements such as grammar, organization, argumentation, citation, and editing are all important and will affect your grade.

While planning and writing your essays, as always, feel free to get in touch with me (and/or your T.A.) for any questions you might have.

Below are a few tips for writing effective essays.

- * Your essay must have a clear thesis. A thesis is a statement of what you are trying to prove in the essay—your argument, your point, your stance or position. It should be something with which your reader can agree or disagree.

* Write about what interests and excites you. When considering a topic, think of what you liked most in the texts on the course—issues, ideas, passages, and so forth. What would you like to explore further? What would you find interesting to write about for five or six pages? If you enjoy what you are writing about, your essay will show it.

* Finally, reread and edit. Before submitting your paper, reread it and revise it as necessary, looking for everything from typos to potentially unclear sentences to improper essay format. Having someone else

