

Department of English & Writing Studies

English 2072F (001)  
Speculative Fiction: Fantasy  
Fall 2024

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Office Hours: M, W: 12:30-1:30 pm

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 Neil Gaiman. We will examine the continuing appeal of stories about magic, whether they involve supernatural intrusions, visits to the realm of

### Methods of Evaluation

Lord of the Rings Assignment (750 words, due October 7)	20%
Essay (1750 words, due November 27)	40%
Attendance and Participation	10%
Final Exam	30%

Please note: The Department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at <https://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>.

### Timetable

Sept. 9:	Introduction to the Course
Sept. 11:	J.R.R. Tolkien, "On Fairy-Stories"; A.S. Byatt, "Harry Potter and the Childish Adult" (on OWL)
	Immersive Fantasy
Sept. 16:	J.R.R. Tolkien, The Fellowship of the Ring (Foreword to the Second Edition; Prologue; Book 1, Chapters 1-5)
Sept. 18:	Fellowship (up to Book 2 Chapter 5)
Sept. 23:	Fellowship (Book 2 Chapters 6-10)
Sept. 25:	The Two Towers (Book 3)
Sept. 30:	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (no classes)
Oct. 2:	The Two Towers (Book 4); The Return of the King (Book 5)
Oct. 7:	The Return of the King (Book 6)
Oct.. 9:	The Return of the King Jo Walton, Among Others (up to p. 75)
Oct. 14-18:	FALL READING WEEK (no classes)
Oct.. 21-23:	Jo Walton, Among Others
	Portal Fantasy
Oct. 28-30:	C.S. Lewis, The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Neil Gaiman, "The Problem of Susan" (from Fragile Things)
Nov. 4:	C.S. Lewis, The Magician's Nephew
Nov. 6:	C.S. Lewis, The Magician's Nephew Lev Grossman, The Magicians (up to p. 70)
Nov. 11-13:	Lev Grossman, The Magicians
	Intrusive Fantasy
Nov. 18-20:	Bram Stoker, Dracula

- Nov. 25: Bram Stoker, *Dracula*; Neil Gaiman, "A Study in Emerald" (from *Fragile Things*)  
Hidden Worlds
- Nov. 27: J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*
- Dec. 2: J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*
- Dec. 4: Eliezer Yudkowsky (*Less Wrong*), *Harry Potter and the Methods of Rationality* (Chapters 1-6)  
Review

### Academic Integrity Tutorial

All students are required to enroll in and complete the Centre for Teaching and Learning's Academic Integrity Tutorial. Once the tutorial has been completed, you will receive a downloadable certificate. You must upload the certificate and submit it through the course Assignments tab in order to complete this assignment. The tutorial must be completed by Friday in the second week of term. This tutorial is mandatory in order for you to complete and pass the course. If you have completed the tutorial already for another course, you may upload the same certificate for this course; you do not need to repeat the tutorial.

### Attendance

Attendance is mandatory in all classes and tutorials. In cases of excessive absenteeism (e.g. more than 9 unexcused hours for a half course, 18 for a full course), which are not accounted for by either academic consideration or accommodation, students may be debarred from taking the final examination, and will receive an official warning to this effect by or before the course drop date (see Senate policy). In classes with or without final exams, students who do not attend class will receive 0% for course participation grades. Unless other policies dictate a different set of penalties in specific En

2. All written assignments should be double-spaced in a standard font such as 12-pt Times Roman. Please follow MLA format (see attached guidelines). Essays must be uploaded as documents to the Assignments tool. Email is not an accepted method of submission. To count as on time, an essay must be uploaded to the OWL by 11:55 pm on the due date. One percent per day (including weekends) will be deducted from late essays (that is, one mark out of 100 will be deducted for each late day), beginning 48 hours after the due date (that is, essays submitted on the third day will receive a 3-mark deduction). No paper will be accepted.



Academic Offences

Scholastic offences are taken seriously and students are directed to read the appropriate policy, specifically, the definition of what constitutes a Scholastic Offence, at

### Grading Rubric

#### THESIS

- Is there a unifying idea in this paper?
- Is this idea specific, original, and argumentative?
- Is this idea explained clearly near the beginning of the paper?

#### ARGUMENT

- Does the material in this paper go beyond description to explore the implications and meaning of the text(s)?
- Have opposing ideas been acknowledged and given a convincing response?

#### ORGANIZATION

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Sample MLA Format

Surname 1

Your Name

Name of T.A./Professor

English 2072G

February 12, 2018

Diary of a Young Girl

First-Person Narration in Jo Walton's *Among Others*

If you have a snappy, attention-grabbing title, follow it with an informative subtitle that indicates your topic as well as the work(s) you will be discussing. Titles of books should be *italicized*. Titles of articles and short stories should be put in "Quotation Marks." Introduce quotations in your own words, identifying the speaker and context: EXAMPLE: As Morwenna points out, "If you love books enough, books will love you back" (300). Use ellipses to indicate where you have omitted words from the quotation, and put any changes in brackets: EXAMPLE: The White Witch is described as "a great lady ... covered in white fur up to her throat [who] held a long straight golden wand in her right hand" (33).

If the quotation is longer than four lines, do not use quotations marks; instead, indent the passage five spaces from the left and continue to double space.

EXAMPLE: Walton offers a sceptical take on the boarding-school novel:

My popularity, bizarrely, goes both up and down slightly because of the marks. They don't care about lessons, and they hate me for beating them, but you get house points for exceptional marks, and they care a lot about house points. It's depressing how much boarding school is just like Enid Blyton showed it, and all the ways it's different are ways it's worse. (35-36)

At the end of the essay, list all the works you have discussed or used in the preparation of your paper. Staple the top left hand corner.

Works Cited

Lewis, C.S. *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*. HarperTrophy, 1950.

Walton, Jo. *Among Others*. Tor, 2010.