

Department of English & Writing Studies

English 2072G : G. Ceraldi
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Office Hours: T, Th: 3:30-4:30 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 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:

- Place individual texts into the context of the fantasy genre as a whole;
- Identify and analyze the basic elements of literature such as plot, character, point of view, theme, setting, imagery, and diction;
- Understand the political, religious, moral, and philosophical underpinnings of the texts on the course;
- Write an essay about a work of literature containing an effective thesis supported by adequate evidence from the original text;
- Offer independent insights, beyond those outlined in class;
- Organize and present ideas clearly and effectively.

Course Materials

J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring* (Harper)

The Two Towers (Harper)

The Return of the King (Harper)

C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* (Harper)

The Magician's Nephew (Harper)

Methods of Evaluation

Essay # 1 (1000-1250 words / 4 pages)	25%	Due end of Week 5 (Feb. 7)
Essay # 2 (1500-1750 words / 6 pages)	35%	Due end of Week 10 (March 21)
Final Exam	30%	
Discussion Posts	10%	Due weekly by Sunday night

Discussion questions are posted on the Discussions board, found under Communications in the Brightspace OWL site. You may post your answers any time prior to the end of the week on which that text is scheduled; each discussion topic will be locked shortly after the end of that week. For full credit, you must post a total of 10 responses in 10 different weeks (as there are two questions posted for each week, this means you can choose one of the two to answer). In order to receive credit you must include at least one **quotation from the text**. Since you can fulfill this requirement by posting in only 10 out of the 12 weeks of the course, no additional academic consideration will be given for discussion posts.

All grades, once assigned and/or posted, are final. While formal appeal processes do exist in the Department of English and Writing Studies, grades will not be changed after the fact in response to emailed requests and/or GPA requirements, nor will the weighting of assignments be altered for individual students.

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>

Submitting Assignments

Submit your essays online using the "Assignments" tool before 11:59 pm on the due date. Email is not an accepted method of submission. No essay will be accepted beyond two weeks after the due date.

Late Assignments

Essays submitted late will receive a penalty of 1% per day (that is, one mark out of 100), including weekends. This is a flexible deadline; late penalties will not be deducted for a period of 48 hours after the due date (essays submitted on the third day will receive a 3-mark deduction). These assignments are not eligible for additional academic consideration without supporting documentation. Students can obtain additional academic consideration by submitting appropriate documentation to the academic counsellor in their home faculty (see page 5 of this syllabus for more details). Please email me only

WEEK 4: Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings – The Return of the King*.

Portal Fantasy

WEEK 5: C.S. Lewis, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* – **ESSAY 1 Due February 7**

WEEK 6: Lewis, *The Magician's Nephew*

WEEK 7: Lev Grossman, *The Magicians*

Intrusive Fantasy

WEEK 8: Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (Chapters 1-16)

WEEK 9: Stoker, *Dracula* (Chapters 17-27)

WEEK 10: Charles Perrault, "Bluebeard," Angela Carter, "The Bloody Chamber" and "The Lady of the House of Love" (from *The Bloody Chamber*) – **ESSAY 2 Due March 21**

Hidden World Fantasy

WEEK 11: J.K. Rowling,

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 potentially agree or disagree; it should not be a statement of fact or general knowledge. Your thesis should also be a statement about the meaning of the text, or 2.6 (s6 (h)10.5 (e)1]TJ 0 -1.152 Td [(m)-6 (ea.6 (ng of)476 (r)-6 ((t)-61(m)-6 (ea.

Instructors may designate one assignment or assessment as exempt from this allowance. In this course, all assignments have built-in consideration, as the essays have flexible deadlines and the discussion posts already allow for two missed weeks per term, so I am not making use of this designation.

Assignments with flexible deadlines and any term work that does not count towards the course grade are **not** eligible for additional consideration.

Documentation for medical illness, when required, includes the completion of a [Western Student Medical Certificate \(SMC\)](#) or, where that is not possible, equivalent documentation, by a health care practitioner.

Requests linked to examinations scheduled by the Office of the Registrar during official examination periods as well as practice laboratory and performance tests typically scheduled in the last week of term **always** require formal supporting documentation.

Religious Accommodation

Students should consult the University's list of recognized religious holidays, and should give reasonable notice in writing, prior to the holiday, to the Instructor and an Academic Counsellor if their course requirements will be affected by a religious observance. Additional information is given in the [Western Multicultural Calendar](#).

Support Services

Registrarial Services <http://www.registrar.uwo.ca>

Student Support Services <https://student.uwo.ca/psp/heprdweb/?cmd=login>

Sample

Surname 1

Your Name

Name of T.A./Professor

English 2072G

12 February 2020

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 (one tab) 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.