

Department of English & Writing Studies

English 2337F (001)
J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis and Friends
519-661-2111 x85834

Office Hours:

Mondays 12:30-2:00 pm
Thursdays 1:00-2:30 pm

This is an in-person course.

Important Note: while this is an in-person course, students must be able to access Brightspace online for readings and some assignments.

Antirequisite: English 2023A/B

Prerequisites : At least 60% in 1.0 of English 1020E; or both English 1027F/G and English 1028F/G; or English 1022E or English 1024E or English 1035E or English 1036E or English 1901E, or permission of the department.

Unless you have either the requisites for this course or written special permission from the Dean to enroll in it, you may be removed from this course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your financial aid if you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisites.

Course Description

This course explores the popular fiction of J.R.R. Tolkien (*The Lord of the Rings*) and C.S. Lewis' *Narnia Chronicles* and *Out of the Silent Planet* in relation to the western literary tradition. Both Tolkien and Lewis were highly esteemed scholars and their knowledge of classical, medieval and renaissance themes and conventions deeply influenced their major works. At the same time, these works of fiction were very much of the twentieth century, and thus responded to such conflicts as the two world wars and the accelerated pace of technological, social and cultural change. Their works also draw on the conventions of genre fiction of the twentieth century (science fiction, fantasy and children's literature). The wider circle of Tolkien and Lewis (sometimes called 'The Inklings') also used genre fiction (the detective novel and thriller) to explore deeper issues, and the last weeks of the course will consider works by Charles Williams and Dorothy L. Sayers.

Objectives :

The successful student will be able to:

- Describe how the various primary works engage with and extend the norms of their genre.
- Discuss how a literary work reflects the historical context in which it was written.
- Recognize and explain how works of popular fiction build upon the traditions of classical and English literature.
- Discuss the shared -- and differing -- features of the works of these connected writers.
- Write clearly and concisely on complex topics.
- Analyse in well-

- Research and respond to relevant scholarly and critical studies of the primary works.
- Develop well-organized, effective, and rich arguments on literary topics arising from the course texts.

Course Materials

Texts :

J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring* (Harper) ISBN 978-0-261-10357-3 or 978-0-261-10357-5

J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Two Towers* (Harper) ISBN 978-0-261-10358-0

J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Return of the King* (Harper) ISBN 978-0-261-10359-7

C.S. Lewis, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader* (Harper Collins) ISBN 978-0-064-40502-7

C.S. Lewis, *Out of the Silent Planet* (Scribner) ISBN 978-0-684-82380-5

Dorothy L. Sayers, *Strong Poison* (Hodder) 978-1473621336

Charles Williams, *Selected Poetry and Prose* (available through BrightSpace)

Methods of Evaluation

The grade for the course will be arrived at as follows:

Term Tests (Oct. 8 and Nov. 5)	35%
Essay (preliminary bibliography: Thurs. Oct. 31 ; essay itself: Thurs. Nov. 28)	30%
Final Exam	<u>35%</u>
	100%

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

OWL Brightspace

Students are responsible for checking the course site on a regular basis for news and updates. This is the primary method by which information will be disseminated to all students in the class. Students may access the OWL Brightspace Learner Support site for assistance: <https://brightspacehelp.uwo.ca/> For IT related issues, they may contact Western Technology Services Helpdesk directly: <https://wts.uwo.ca/helpdesk/>.

Electronic Devices

No aids are permitted for the tests and exam of this course. Electronic devices of any kind (including calculators, cell phones and smart watches) are not permitted.

Statements

Academic Consideration

Students may request academic consideration in cases of extenuating circumstances – that is, personal circumstances beyond the student’s control that have a substantial but temporary impact on the student’s ability to meet essential academic requirements.

1. Requests for academic consideration are made to the Academic Advising office of the

traumatic events. If you are experiencing or have experienced GBSV (either recently or in the past), you will find information about support services for survivors, including emergency contacts at the following website: https://www.uwo.ca/health/student_support/survivor_support/get-help.html. To connect with a case manager or set up an appointment, please contact support@uwo.ca.

Intellectual Property/Copyright

All instructor-written materials (e.g. PowerPoints, lecture notes, oral lectures) for this course are created solely for students' personal use within the course, and remain the instructor's intellectual property. Further reproduction, fixation, distribution, transmission, dissemination, communication, or any other uses, without securing the consent of the copyright owner (the course instructor) may be an infringement of copyright. You may not distribute, email, or otherwise communicate these materials to any other person. These limitations extend to recording, photographing, or sharing lectures (online or in-person) and lecture material without permission. Posting the instructor's content from this course to online course sharing s1.9 (oi)2.6 (nt{(l)-6.6 (nt)-

Tolkien, *The Two Towers*

Oct. 12-20 Fall Reading Week

Week 7 (Week of Oct. 20)

Tolkien, *The Return of the King*

Week 8 (Week of Oct. 27)

The Return of the King

Week 9 (Week of Nov. 3)

Tues. Nov. 5 Term Test #2 (50 minutes, in- class; assumes complete reading of *The Lord of the Rings*)

The Return of the King

Week 10 (Week of Nov. 10)

C. S. Lewis, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*

Week 11 (Week of Nov. 17)

C. S. Lewis, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*

Charles Williams, *Selected Poetry and Short Prose* [available through Owl]

Week 12 (Week of Nov. 24)

Dorothy L. Sayers, *Strong Poison*

Week 13 (Week of