

English 2337F/G
Section 530

J.R.R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis and Friends

J. Doelman
Office 301B
432-8353 x28248
jdoelman@uwo.ca

Class times:
Mondays 1:30 to 3:30 (Room 203)
Wednesdays 1:30 to 2:30 (Room 203)

Calendar Description

This course explores the fiction of J.R.R. Tolkien (*The Lord of the Rings*), C.S. Lewis (*The Chronicles of Narnia*), and their circle in relation to the western literary tradition; genres such as fantasy, science fiction, and detective fiction; and the twentieth-century historical context.

Course Description

This course explores the popular fiction of J.R.R. Tolkien (*The Hobbit* and *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 literary scholars and their knowledge of classical, medieval and renaissance themes and conventions deeply influenced their major works. At the same time, these novels 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 Dorothy Sayers and Charles Williams.

Antirequisite: English 2023A/B

Evaluation

Term Tests	25%
Essay	30%
In-Class Presentation/Test	10%
Final Exam	<u>35%</u>
	100%

Texts

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

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

J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Return of the King* (Harper) ISBN 978-0-26-110359-7

C.S. Lewis, *Prince Caspian* (Harper Collins) ISBN 9780064405003

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

One of either

Charles Williams, *War in Heaven* (Eerdmans) ISBN 978-0-8028-1219-3

or

Dorothy L. Sayers, *Gaudy Night* (Hodder) ISBN 978-1473621404

Course Objectives (a selection):

While any such list is by its nature limiting and fragmentary, the following may be taken as a sample of the course's objectives.¹ The successful student will be able to:

1. Describe how the various primary works engage with and extend the norms of their genre. (*Critical Thinking; Inquiry and Analysis*)
2. Discuss how a literary work reflects the historical context in which it was written. (*Critical Thinking; Inquiry and Analysis*)
3. Recognize and explain how works of popular fiction build upon the traditions of Classical and English literature.
4. Discuss the shared -- and differing -- features of the works of these connected writers. (*Critical Thinking*)
5. Write a coherent and clear essay that accurately discusses the features of a literary work. (*Communication*)
6. Analyse in well-written prose how the elements of fiction work together to achieve a cohesive effect. (*Critical Thinking; Communication*)
7. Research and respond to relevant scholarly and critical studies of the primary works. (*Critical Thinking; Inquiry and Analysis*)

¹ For a thoughtful reflection upon course "objectives" and "outcomes", see Michael Bennett and Jacqueline Brady, "A Radical Critique of the Learning Outcomes Assessment Movement", *The Radical Teacher*, 94 (Fall 2012), pp. 34-47.

8. Develop well-organized, effective, and rich arguments on literary topics of the period. (*Critical Thinking; Communication*)

9. Present, in an oral format, a scholarly discussion of a literary work of the period. (*Communication*)

10. Write clearly and concisely on complex topics. (*Communication*)

(Italicized text in brackets identifies the relevant Brescia competencies.)

Class Schedule

Mon. Sept. 11 Introduction to Course

Wed. Sept. 13 C.S. Lewis, *Prince Caspian*

Mon. Sept. 18 *Prince Caspian*

Wed. Sept. 20 *Prince Caspian*

Mon. Sept. 25 Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*

Wed. Sept. 27 *The Fellowship of the Ring*

Mon. Oct. 2 Term-Test #1 (one hour; assumes complete reading of *Prince Caspian* and *The Fellowship of the Ring*)
The Fellowship of the Ring

Wed. Oct. 4 *The Fellowship of the Ring*

Oct. 9-13 Fall Reading Week

Mon. Oct. 16 Tolkien, *The Two Towers*

Wed. Oct. 18 *The Two Towers*

Mon. Oct. 23 *The Two Towers*

Wed. Oct. 25 *The Return of the King*

Mon. Oct. 30 **Term-test #2** (one hour; assumes complete reading of *The Two Towers* and *The Return of the King*)
The Return of the King

Wed. Nov. 1 *The Return of the King*

Mon. Nov. 6 *The Return of the King*

Wed. Nov. 8 Lewis, *Out of the Silent Planet*

Mon. Nov. 13 *Out of the Silent Planet*

Wed. Nov. 15 *Out of the Silent Planet*

Mon. Nov. 20 Charles Williams, *War in Heaven*; Dorothy Sayers, *Gaudy Night*

Wed. Nov. 22 *War in Heaven* and *Gaudy Night* (Student Presentations)

Mon. Nov. 27 *War in Heaven* and *Gaudy Night* (Student Presentations)

Wed. Nov. 29 *War in Heaven* and *Gaudy Night* (Student Presentations)

Mon. Dec. 4 *War in Heaven* and *Gaudy Night*

Wed. Dec. 6 *War in Heaven* and *Gaudy Night*

2017-18 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

1. POLICY REGARDING MAKEUP EXAMS AND EXTENSIONS OF DEADLINES

When a student requests academic accommodation (e.g., extension of a deadline, a makeup exam) for work representing 10% or more of the student's overall grade in the course, it is the responsibility of the student to provide acceptable documentation to support a medical or compassionate claim. All such requests for academic accommodation **must** be made through an Academic Advisor and include supporting documentation. Academic accommodation for illness will be granted only if the documentation indicates that the onset, duration and severity of the illness are such that the student could not reasonably be expected to complete her academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated. Documentation shall be submitted as soon as possible to the student's Academic Advisor indicating the period of illness and when the student should be able to resume academic responsibilities. Students must submit their documentation along with a request for relief specifying the nature of the accommodation being requested no later than two business days after the date specified for resuming responsibilities. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office in consultation with the student's instructor(s). Please note that personal commitments (e.g., vacation flight bookings, work schedule) which conflict with a scheduled test, exam or course requirement are **not** grounds for academic accommodation.

A UWO Student Medical Certificate (SMC) is **required** if a student is seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds. This documentation should be obtained at the time of the initial consultation with the physician/nurse practitioner or walk-in clinic. A SMC can be downloaded from:

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf. The student must request documentation sufficient to demonstrate that her ability to meet academic responsibilities was seriously affected. Please note that under University Senate regulations documentation stating simply that the student "was seen for a medical reason" or "was ill" is **not** adequate to support a request for academic accommodation.

Whenever possible, requests for academic accommodation should be initiated in advance of due dates, examination dates, etc. Students must follow up with their professors and Academic Advisor in a timely manner.

The full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness can be viewed at:
<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg117.html>

2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal problem that is interfering with your work, contact your instructor and Academic Advisor as soon as possible. Problems may then be documented and possible arrangements to assist you can be discussed at the time of occurrence rather than on a retroactive basis. Retroactive requests for academic accommodation on medical

or compassionate grounds may not be considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult an Academic Advisor. If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines (refer to the Registrar's website, <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official dates <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg7.html>). You should consult with the course instructor and the Academic Advisor who can help you consider alternatives to dropping one or more courses. *Note that dropping a course may affect OSAP eligibility and/or Entrance Scholarship eligibility.*

The Dean may refuse permission to write the final examination in a course if the student has failed to maintain satisfactory academic standing throughout the year or for too frequent absence from the class or laboratory (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg130.html>)

3. ABSENCES

Short Absences: If you miss a class due to a minor illness or other problems, check your course outline for information regarding attendance requirements and make sure you are not missing a test or assignment. Cover any readings and arrange to borrow notes from a classmate. Contact the course instructor if you have any questions.

Extended Absences: If you have an extended absence, you should contact the course instructor and an Academic Advisor. Your course instructor and Academic Advisor can discuss ways for you to catch up on missed work and arrange academic accommodations, if appropriate.

4. POLICY ON CHEATING & ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

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

http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/scholastic_discipline_undergrad.pdf.

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. Students are urged to read the section on Scholastic Offences in the Academic Calendar. Note that such offences include plagiarism, cheating on an examination, submitting false or fraudulent assignments or credentials, impersonating a candidate, or submitting for credit in any course without the knowledge and approval of the instructor to whom it is submitted, any academic work for which credit has previously been obtained or is being sought in another course in the University or elsewhere. Students are advised to consult the section on Academic Misconduct in the Western Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Student Services Centre, or the Registrar. A claim that "you didn't know it was wrong" is not accepted as an excuse.

The penalties for a student guilty of a scholastic offence (including plagiarism) include

refusal of a passing grade in the assignment, refusal of a passing grade in the course, suspension from the University, and expulsion from the University.

Plagiarism:

Students must write their essays and assignments in their own words. Whenever students take an idea or a passage from another author, they must acknowledge their debt both by using quotation marks where appropriate and by proper referencing such as footnotes or citations. Plagiarism is a major academic offence (see Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar).

All required papers may be subject to submission for textual similarity review to the commercial plagiarism detection software under license to the University for the detection of plagiarism. All papers submitted for such checking will be included as source documents in the reference database for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of papers subsequently submitted to the system. Use of the service is subject to the licensing agreement, currently between The University of Western Ontario and Turnitin.com (<http://www.turnitin.com>).

Computer-marked Tests/exams:

Computer-marked multiple-choice tests and/or exams may be subject to submission for similarity review by software that will check for unusual coincidences in answer patterns that may indicate cheating. Software currently in use to score computer-marked multiple-choice tests and exams performs a similarity review as part of standard exam analysis.

5. PROCEDURES FOR APPEALING ACADEMIC EVALUATIONS

All appeals of a grade must be directed first to the course instructor. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the course instructor, a written appeal signed by the student must be sent to the Department Chair. If the response of the department is considered unsatisfactory to the student, she may then submit a signed, written appeal to the Office of the Dean. Only after receiving a final decision from the Dean may a student appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic. A Guide to Appeals is available from the Ombudsperson's Office, or you can consult an Academic Advisor. Students are advised to consult the section on Student Academic Appeals under Academic Rights and Responsibilities in the Western Academic Calendar (<http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2017/pg112.html>).

Note that final course marks are not official until the Academic Dean has reviewed and signed the final grade report for the course. If course marks deviate from acceptable and appropriate standards, the Academic Dean may require grades to be adjusted to align them with accepted grading practices

(http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/evaluation_undergrad.pdf and http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/exam/finalgrades.pdf).

6. PREREQUISITES

Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written special permission from your Dean to enroll in it, you will be removed from the course and it will be deleted from your record. This decision may not be appealed. You will receive no adjustment to your fees in the event that

you are dropped from a course for failing to have the necessary prerequisite(s).

7. SUPPORT

Support Services

The Brescia University College Registrar's website, with a link to Academic Advisors, is at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/>. The website for the Student Development Centre at Western is <http://www.sdc.uwo.ca/>.

Mental Health and Wellness

Students may experience a range of issues that can cause barriers to your learning, such as increased anxiety, feeling overwhelmed, feeling down or lost, difficulty concentrating and/or lack of motivation. Services are available to assist you with addressing these and other concerns you may be experiencing. You can learn more about mental health and wellness at Brescia at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/mental-health-wellness/>. Students who are in emotional/mental distress should refer to Mental_Health@Western <http://www.uwo.ca/uwocom/mentalhealth/> for a complete list of options about how to obtain help.

Sexual Violence

All members of the Brescia University College community have a right to work and study in an environment that is free from any form of sexual violence. Brescia University College recognizes that the prevention of, and response to, Sexual Violence is of particular importance in the university environment. Sexual Violence is strictly prohibited and unacceptable and will not be tolerated. Brescia is committed to preventing Sexual Violence and creating a safe space for anyone in the Brescia community who has experienced Sexual Violence.

If you or someone you know has experienced any form of Sexual Violence, you may access resources at <http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/sexual-violence/>.

Portions of this document were taken from the Academic Calendar, the Handbook of Academic and Scholarship Policy and the Academic Handbook of Senate Regulations. This document is a summary of relevant regulations and does not supersede the academic policies and regulations of the Senate of the University of Western Ontario.