

English 2337G  
Section 530  
Winter 2022

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

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In-Person Office Hours: Weds. 12:30-2 :00; Thurs. 12:30-2 :00 (once in-person classes resume)

Email for a Zoom appointment

Class times:

This is an online course, which will be primarily delivered through the course's official [Owl website](#). Please see the section below on matters of Online Etiquette.

Lectures (roughly two hours per week) will be pre-recorded and available for you to watch at times convenient to you. The third hour of class-time will be a synchronous discussion session. For this the class will be divided into two groups:

- A group meeting on Zoom from 2:30 to 3:30 on Thursdays
- A group meeting in person from 3:30 to 4:30 on Thursdays in Brescia, Mother St. James Room 14 (until in-person classes resume, this will be on Zoom from 3:30 to 4:30)

Students may sign up for whichever of those groups they prefer. However, students will not be able to shift from one to the other after the second week of classes.

### **Calender 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 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 Charles Williams and Dorothy Sayers.

**Antirequisite:** English 2023F/G

**Evaluation**

Term Tests	25%
Participation	10%
Essay (preliminary bibliography: Tues. March 15; essay itself: Thurs. March 31)	30%
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, *The 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, *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, *Gaudy Night* (Hodder) ISBN 978-1473621404

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

**Policy on Late Assignments**

For tests and assignments worth 5% or more, the student must meet with an academic advisor to provide medical documentation for accommodation. Late essays that have not been approved for academic accommodation will be penalized at a rate of two percent per day. Late essays will not be accepted after the end of term.

PLAGIARISM of any kind is a serious academic offence. Be advised that electronic plagiarism-detection programmes will be used and essay banks checked, if the professor has any suspicion of 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 both in the body and at the end of the assignment. Any borrowings from secondary sources, whether wordings or ideas, must be acknowledged BOTH in the main body of your essay AND at the end in a bibliography or works cited! If you have any doubts about how to document your work correctly, check with your professor prior to handing in your essay. See the Scholastic Offence Policy in the Western Academic Calendar (reprinted below).

## Course Objectives (a selection):

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 clearly and concisely on complex topics. (*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*)
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*)

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

## Class Schedule

Week 1 (Week of Jan. 10)

Introduction to Course and C.S. Lewis, *Out of the Silent Planet*

Week 2 (Week of Jan. 17)

*Out of the Silent Planet*

Week 3 (Week of Jan. 24)

Tolkien, *The Fellowship of the Ring*<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Although I list the titles of the separate volumes to give a sense of how far you should read each week, I stress that *The Lord of the Rings* is not a “trilogy”, but a single unified work divided into volumes only because of the requirements of publication.

Week 4 (Week of Jan. 31)  
*The Fellowship of the Ring*

Week 5 (Week of Feb. 7)  
Tues. Feb. 8 Term-Test #1 (one hour; assumes complete reading of *Out of the Silent Planet* and *The Fellowship of the Ring*)  
Tolkien, *The Two Towers*

Week 6 (Week of Feb. 14)  
Tolkien, *The Two Towers*

Week of Feb. 21  
Reading Week

Week 7 (Week of Feb. 28)  
*The Return of the King*

Week 8 (Week of March 7)  
*The Return of the King*  
Tuesday, March 8: Term Test #2 (one hour; assumes complete reading of *The Two Towers* and *The Return of the King*)

Week 9 (Week of March 14)  
C. S. Lewis, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*

Week 10 (Week of March 21)  
C. S. Lewis, *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*  
Charles Williams, Selected Poetry and Short Prose [available through Owl]

Week 11 (Week of March 28)  
Dorothy Sayers, *Gaudy Night*

Week 12 (Week of April 4)  
*Gaudy Night*

## **2021-22 BRESCIA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ACADEMIC POLICIES AND REGULATIONS**

### **1. POLICY REGARDING ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

The complete policy regarding [Accommodation for Illness - Undergraduate Students](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12) can be found at [https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_12](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12) .

Students who have long-term or chronic medical conditions which may impede their ability to complete academic responsibilities should seek Academic Accommodation through Student Accessibility Services

[https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_10](https://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_10) ).

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.

Students who experience an illness or extenuating circumstance sufficiently severe to temporarily render them unable to meet academic requirements may submit a request for academic consideration through the following routes:

1. Submitting a **Self-Reported Absence** form provided that the conditions for submission are met;
2. For medical absences, submitting a **Student Medical Certificate (SMC)** signed by a licensed medical or mental health practitioner;
3. For non-medical absences, submitting **appropriate documentation** (e.g., obituary, police report, accident report, court order, etc.) to their Academic Advisor. Students are encouraged to contact their Academic Advisor to clarify what documentation is acceptable.

### **Requests for Academic Consideration Using the Self-Reported Absence Portal**

Students who experience an unexpected illness or injury or an extenuating circumstance of 48 hours or less that is sufficiently severe to render them unable to meet academic requirements should self-declare using the online Self-Reported Absence portal. This option should be used in situations where the student expects to resume academic responsibilities within 48 hours. Note that the excused absence includes all courses and academic requirements within the up to 48 hours, it is not intended to provide an excused absence from a single course while students fulfill their academic responsibilities in other courses during that time.

The following conditions are in place for self-reporting of medical or extenuating circumstances:

1. Students will be allowed **a maximum of two self-reported absences** between September and April and one self-reported absence between May and August;
2. The duration of the absence will be for a maximum of 48 hours from the time the Self-Reported Absence form is completed through the online portal, or from 8:30 am the following morning if the form is submitted after 4:30 pm;
3. The excused absence will terminate prior to the end of the 48 hour period if the student undertakes significant academic responsibilities (writes a test, submits a paper) during that time;
4. Self-reported absences will **not** be allowed for scheduled final examinations; midterm examinations scheduled during the December examination period; or for final lab examinations scheduled during the final week of term;
5. Self-report absences may **not** be used for assessments worth more than 30% of any course;
6. Any absences in excess of 48 hours will require students to present a Student Medical Certificate (SMC), or appropriate documentation;
7. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours after the end of the period covered by the Self-Reported Absence form** to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence.

## Request for Academic Consideration for a Medical Absence

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 their academic responsibilities. Minor ailments typically treated by over-the-counter medications will not normally be accommodated.

The following conditions apply for students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds:

1. Students must submit their Student Medical Certificate (SMC) 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. An SMC can be downloaded from [http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic\\_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf](http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/pdf/academic_policies/appeals/medicalform.pdf) ;
2. In cases where there might be an extended absence or serious issue, students should submit their documentation promptly and consult their Academic Advisor for advice during their recovery period;
3. Whenever possible, students who require academic accommodation should provide notification and documentation in advance of due dates, scheduled tests or examinations, and other academic requirements;
4. Students **must** communicate with their instructors **no later than 24 hours** after the end of the period covered by the SMC to clarify how they will fulfil the academic expectations they may have missed during the absence;
5. Appropriate academic accommodation will be determined by the Dean's Office/Academic Advisor in consultation with the course instructor(s). Academic accommodation may include extension of deadlines, waiver of attendance requirements, arranging Special Exams (make-ups), re-weighting course requirements, or granting late withdrawal without academic penalty.

The [full policy on requesting accommodation due to illness](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12) can be viewed at:  
[http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_12](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_12)

## 2. ACADEMIC CONCERNS

If you feel that you have a medical or personal challenge 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 are not normally considered.

If you think that you are too far behind to catch up or that your work load is not manageable, you should consult your Academic Advisor ([https://www.brescia.uwo.ca/enrolment\\_services/academic\\_advising/index.php](https://www.brescia.uwo.ca/enrolment_services/academic_advising/index.php) ). If you consider reducing your workload by dropping one or more courses, this must be done by the appropriate deadlines; please refer to <http://brescia.uwo.ca/academics/registrar-services/> or the list of official sessional dates in the Academic Calendar (<http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/SessionalDates.cfm?SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=>).

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.*

### 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.

Please note that for asynchronous online courses, attendance or participation requirements maybe different than for synchronous or in-person courses.

**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 and warranted.

It is important to note that the Academic 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://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading\\_68](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=5&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#SubHeading_68) ).

### 4. SCHOLASTIC 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: [http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_20](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_20).

Students are responsible for understanding the nature of and avoiding the occurrence of plagiarism and other academic offences. 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 Scholastic Discipline for Undergraduate Students in the Academic Calendar.

If you are in doubt about whether what you are doing is inappropriate or not, consult your instructor, the Academic Dean's Office, 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.

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 is to be sent to the School Chair. If the response of the Chair is considered unsatisfactory to the student, they may then submit a written appeal to the Office of the Dean. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean, they may appeal to the Senate Review Board Academic (SRBA), if there are sufficient grounds for the appeal and if the matter falls within the jurisdiction of the SRBA. For information on academic appeals consult your Academic Advisor or see the Student Academic Appeals – Undergraduate in the Academic Calendar [http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page\\_14](http://www.westerncalendar.uwo.ca/PolicyPages.cfm?Command=showCategory&PolicyCategoryID=1&SelectedCalendar=Live&ArchiveID=#Page_14).

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.

## **6. PREREQUISITES**



Unless you have either the prerequisites for a course or written Special Permission from the 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/> . Students can access supports through Brescia's Student Life Centre (<http://brescia.uwo.ca/life/student-life/>) and Learning Skills Services at Western (<https://www.uwo.ca/sdc/learning/>)

### **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 obtain information about how to obtain help for yourself or others through **Health & Wellness at Brescia**

([https://brescia.uwo.ca/student\\_life/health\\_and\\_wellness/index.php](https://brescia.uwo.ca/student_life/health_and_wellness/index.php) ) and **Health and Wellness at Western**, [http://uwo.ca/health/mental\\_wellbeing/index.html](http://uwo.ca/health/mental_wellbeing/index.html).

### **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 [https://brescia.uwo.ca/safe\\_campus/sexual\\_violence/index.php](https://brescia.uwo.ca/safe_campus/sexual_violence/index.php) .

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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.

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