ENGL 2316.001 Literature & Culture Summer II 2019

Reading J. R. R. Tolkien: The Perilous and The Precious
Mr. Tom Murphy, Professional Assistant Professor
Course Information 12:00-1:55 TR RM 106 Center of Instruction (CI number 26 on online map)

Contact Information
Office: Room 270 B Faculty Center (FC number 25 on online map).
Phone: 361.825.2452
E-mail: thomas.murphy@tamucc.edu
Office Hours: M & W 2:30-3:30 T 10:30-11:30, or by appointment
Course Web Page http://bb9.tamucc.edu

Course Description
In this course we will read two texts by J.R.R. Tolkien, his essay “On Faire-Stories,” and The Lord of the Rings. The emphasis is on a fresh look at these texts and reading them with a close critical eye. The text Beren and Lúthien will be in some discussion as a supplemental text for a deeper literary understanding of Tolkien’s 1st Age of Middle-Earth that a particular moment in The Lord of the Rings becomes important. By reading these texts we will gather an understanding of the culture and society of Tolkien’s fantasy realm called Middle-Earth. To understand the ever popular The Lord of the Rings on a deeper literary level, we must read Tolkien’s reasoning of what makes a Faire-story, “Faërie is a perilous land, and in it are pitfalls for the unwary and dungeons for the overbold” (Tolkien “On Faire-Stories” 1). The Lord of the Rings is rife with reference to Tolkien’s original writings of Middle-Earth and what better way to understand their contextual meaning than to read critically deeply felt personal tale about a man and elf falling in love as we see with Aragorn and Arwen in The Lord of the Rings.

Course Objectives:
1. To consider how ideas, values, beliefs, and other aspects of culture express and affect human experience by examining the connections between literary works and their social, historical, and cultural contexts.
2. To use literature to explore ideas that foster aesthetic and intellectual creation in order to understand the human condition across cultures and nationalities.
3. To recognize the distinctive characteristics of relevant literary periods, genres, and writers.
4. To understand and use basic literary terms and concepts.
5. To develop analytic skills by close reading, class discussion, and writing.
6. To use writing as a tool for learning.

Student Learning Outcomes:
Students who successfully complete this course will be able to demonstrate knowledge and skills in four Core Objectives defined by the Higher Education Coordinating Board of the State of Texas:

Critical Thinking:
CT1. Generate and communicate ideas by combining, changing, or reapplying existing information.

Communication Skills:
CS1. Develop, interpret, and express ideas through written communication.

Social Responsibility:
SR1. Demonstrate intercultural competence.
Personal Responsibility:
PR1. Connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision making

Course Grade
- 65% Active participation in class discussion (SLO CT1, CS1, SR1 & PR1)
  - (20%) In-class writing assignments
  - (30%) Daily Reading Quiz
  - (10%) In-class discussion
  - (5%) Class Attendance
- 20% Project (creative or essay) (SLO CT1, CS1, SR1 & PR1)
  - (15%) Project (creative or essay) (Due 8.1.19)
  - (5%) Self-Reflection (Due 8.5.19)
- 15% Final Examination (8.8.19) (SLO CT1, CS1, SR1 & PR1)
  - Material covered between 7.8.19-8.8.19, including, texts, quizzes, handouts, presentations, movies and music.

If you are concerned about a grade, see me during office hours.
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Course Requirements

Attendance and Class Participation
- Attendance: you have one (1) day free to miss for the whole summer semester including health issues unless sanctioned by the university. For each absence after the one (1) a loss of one percentage point will be deducted from your grade up to five (5%) maximum.
- Reading the texts is a must for this course. If you have seen The Lord of the Rings films that is well, but it will not pass you in this course—you must read the texts.
- In-class writing assignments are sometimes a group effort or by an individual that concerns material due on that given day.
- Be prepared to write every day in class that means you need to have paper and a pen/pencil every day, plus a copy of the text being discussed on that particular day.
- On review day, students are required to bring all texts included in that particular examination.
- In-class discussion is vital for all students in understanding these texts even if that discussion may take place in the office or through email.
- All cell phones will be turned off, placed upside down in front of you on the desk before each class starts.

Project (Creative or Essay)
Every student will prepare and present a group video that either concentrates on the cultural, social, historical or poetic context of the subject.

1. Explore a topic!
2. Each Person shall write a proposal (1 page) on what subject they will either do a creative project or a literary essay (due July 15th in class).
3. Creative Project: select a subject from the list or some other suitable creative project.
4. Literary Essay: select a subject from the list or some other suitable subject.
5. Each person will meet with Mr. Murphy to discuss proposal on July 15th in class with project idea in mind.
6. Each person will be graded by a specific Rubric
7. Project is due for grading on August 1st
8. A Self-Reflection of the project is due August 5th.
9. HAVE FUN!

**Required Texts**
You will read each text, so buy them. In most cases, the assigned readings will include materials not covered in class. As such, it is absolutely essential that you read the assignments before class in order to succeed in this course.

- “On Faire-Stories” J.R.R. Tolkien (PDF handout)
- Select materials, available as handouts or online
- In class videos

**Final Examination**

- The Final Examination to be taken in blue books (1 per exam). These may be purchased at the university bookstore. Do not, under any circumstances, remove any pages from your blue book before turning it in. All cell phones will be turned off and put away before you will receive each examination.
- There will be a Final Examination (8.8.19)
- Each exam will include definitions (40%), and short answer questions (60%).
  - The definitions questions will be drawn from the lectures and a list of identifications from the readings, presentations & other materials.
  - The short answer questions will be drawn from the lectures and a list of identifications from the readings, presentations & other materials.

**Course Policies**

**Make-up Work**
All make up work must be previously arranged or it will not be accepted.

**Grade Appeals**
As stated in University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, *Student Grade Appeals*, a student who believes that he or she has not been held to appropriate academic standards as outlined in the class syllabus, equitable evaluation procedures, or appropriate grading, may appeal the final grade given in the course. The burden of proof is upon the student to demonstrate the appropriateness of the appeal. A student with a complaint about a grade is encouraged to first discuss the matter with the instructor. For complete details, including the responsibilities of the parties involved in the process and the number of days allowed for completing the steps in the process, see University Procedure 13.02.99.C2.03, *Student Grade Appeals*. These documents are accessible online at:
http://academicaffairs.tamucc.edu/rules_procedures/assets/13.02.99.C0.03_student_grade_appeals.pdf. For assistance and/or guidance in the grade appeal process, students may contact the Associate Dean’s office in the college in which the course is taught. For complete details on the process of submitting a formal grade appeal in CLA, please visit the College of Liberal Arts website,
http://cla.tamucc.edu/about/student-resources.html.

**Assistance**
Office hours are intended to make this course less forbidding. Feel free to come by and talk with me about your work, or about literature in general, during the office hours listed. If you cannot make these times, ask me for an appointment.

**Freedom of Speech**
Feel free to raise your hand with a question or comment. Reducing confusion, providing clarification, or responding to student curiosity is an important part of the classroom process and will be undertaken to the
extent that time and class size permit. In most cases, if you did not understand something, it is because I did not explain it clearly, so you will be doing your colleagues and yourself a service if you request a clarification. However, all students' using electronic devices that are not in use for course work is deemed Disruptive Behavior and student will be told to leave the seminar.

**Academic Integrity & Dishonesty Specifically Article III, #1 in the Violations of the Student Code of Conduct.**

Cheating or plagiarism on an assignment or test, or failure to complete any of the course requirements, will result in a zero grade for the assignment in question. Our University catalog defines "plagiarism" as "the presentation of the work of another as one's own work." Please note that plagiarizing someone else's work may lead to an F in the course. To avoid any suspicion of plagiarism, make sure that you always cite your sources properly and clearly identify your own work if you study with other students. Cases will be reported to university officials for further action. Also, anyone signing another student's name may lead to an F in the course for all concerned parties.

**Dropping a Class**

I hope that you never find it necessary to drop this or any other class. However, events can sometimes occur that make dropping a course necessary or wise. **Please consult with your academic advisor, the Financial Aid Office, and me, before you decide to drop this course.** Should dropping the course be the best course of action, you must initiate the process to drop the course by going to the Student Services Center and filling out a course drop form. Just stopping attendance and participation WILL NOT automatically result in your being dropped from the class. July 29th is the last day to drop a class with an automatic grade of "W" this term.

**Acceptance of Diversity**

We are the most diverse campus, in terms of self-declared ethnicity, in the Texas A&M system. This means that we are all meeting and working with people who are different from ourselves in terms of their identities: whether that be defined by their race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and/or religion. Respecting and accepting difference is vital to your success in this class, on this campus, and in the global community.

**Disability Services**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please call or visit Disability Services at (361) 825-5816 in Corpus Christi Hall 116.

If you are a returning veteran and are experiencing cognitive and/or physical access issues in the classroom or on campus, please contact the Disability Services office for assistance at (361) 825-5816.

**The Writing Center**

The Writing Center of Texas A&M Corpus Christi provides free help for students at any stage in the writing process. Writing Center consultants are trained to work with writers one-on-one to help them find ideas, organize their thoughts, cite sources, and succeed at all aspects of the writing task. The Writing Center works closely with faculty across campus to understand the writing projects they assign and to help students meet the expectations of those assignments. The Writing Center is located in Glasscock Center (GSSC) 112, in the Center for Academic Student Achievement (CASA). Both drop-in and scheduled appointments are available. The Writing Center will be open soon. More information is available at: The Writing Center website.
**Academic Advising**

The College of Liberal Arts requires that students meet with an Academic Advisor as soon as they are ready to declare a major. Degree plans are prepared in the CLA Academic Advising Center. The University uses an online Degree Audit system. Any amendment must be approved by the Department Chair and the Office of the Dean. All courses and requirements specified in the final degree plan audit must be completed before a degree will be granted. The CLA Academic Advising Office is located in Driftwood #203. For more information please call 361-825-3466.

If you are concerned about a grade, see me during office hours.
M & W 2:30-3:30 T 10:30-11:30, or by appointment

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day/Date</th>
<th>MATERIALS COVERED</th>
<th>GRADED EVENT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7/8</td>
<td>Introduction to Tolkien: “On Fairy-Stories” PDF (handout)</td>
<td>Discussion Groups (DG): Tolkien &amp; Film</td>
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<td>7/9</td>
<td>“On Fairy-Stories” 27-49 (Children)</td>
<td>DGS: Fairy-Story &amp; Origins</td>
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<td>7/10</td>
<td>“On Fairy-Stories” 49 (Children)-66 (Recovery, Escape, Consolation)</td>
<td>DGS: Children &amp; Fantasy</td>
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<td>7/11</td>
<td>“On Fairy-Stories” 66 (Recovery, Escape, Consolation)-79</td>
<td>DGS: Recovery, Escape, Consolation, Epilogue &amp; Tolkien</td>
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<td>7/16</td>
<td><em>The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring</em> Book I Chapters 7-10</td>
<td>DGS: Tom Bombadil, Bree &amp; Strider</td>
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<td>7/17</td>
<td><em>The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring</em> Book I Chapters 11-12</td>
<td>DGS: Weather Top, Trolls &amp; Glorfindel</td>
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<td>7/18</td>
<td><em>The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring</em> Book II Chapters 1-2</td>
<td>DGS: Bilbo &amp; the Council of Elrond</td>
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<td>7/22</td>
<td><em>The Lord of the Ring: The Fellowship of the Ring</em> Book II Chapters 3-7</td>
<td>DGS: Gandalf, Balrog &amp; Galadriel</td>
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<td>7/23</td>
<td><em>The Lord of the Ring: The Fellowship of the Ring</em> Book II Chapters 8-10</td>
<td>DGS: Aragorn, Boromir &amp; Frodo’s choice</td>
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<td>7/24</td>
<td><em>The Lord of the Ring: The Two Towers</em> Book III Chapters 1-3</td>
<td>DGS: Aragorn, Gimli, Legolas &amp; Éomer</td>
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<tr>
<td>7/25</td>
<td><em>The Lord of the Ring: The Two Towers</em> Book III Chapters 4-5</td>
<td>DGS: Ents &amp; The White Rider</td>
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<td>7/29</td>
<td><em>The Lord of the Ring: The Two Towers</em> Book III Chapters 6-11</td>
<td>DGS: Théoden, Helm’s Deep &amp; Saruman</td>
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<td>7/30</td>
<td><em>The Lord of the Ring: The Two Towers</em> Book IV Chapters 1-3</td>
<td>DGS: Sméagol, Dead Marshes &amp; Black Gate</td>
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<td>7/31</td>
<td><em>The Lord of the Ring: The Two Towers</em> Book IV Chapters 4-7</td>
<td>DGS: Faramir, Gollum &amp; the King</td>
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<td>8/1</td>
<td><em>The Lord of the Ring: The Two Towers</em> Book IV Chapters 8-10</td>
<td>DGS: The Perilous &amp; the Precious</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Assignment Details</td>
<td>Discussion Topics</td>
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<td>8/5</td>
<td><em>The Lord of the Ring: The Return of the King</em> Book V Chapters 1-7, Project Self-Reflection due</td>
<td>DGS: War of the Ring</td>
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<td>8/6</td>
<td><em>The Lord of the Ring: The Return of the King</em> Book V Chapters 8-10, Book VI Chapter 1</td>
<td>DGS: Healing, Sacrifice &amp; the Elf-Warrior</td>
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<td>8/7</td>
<td><em>The Lord of the Ring: The Return of the King</em> Book VI Chapters 2-5</td>
<td>DGS: Mordor, Celebration &amp; the Return of the King</td>
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<td>8/8</td>
<td><em>The Lord of the Ring: The Return of the King</em> Book VI Chapters 6-9</td>
<td>Discussion, Review &amp; Final Exam</td>
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