

ENGLISH 425: THE OXFORD CHRISTIAN WRITERS

- Instructor:** Dr. Daven M. Kari
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- Office Hours:** MF 10:00-10:50 a.m., and by appointment
- Recommended Texts:** Green, Roger Lancelyn, and Walter Hooper. *C. S. Lewis: A Biography*. Rev. ed. New York: Harvest Books, 1994.
- Lewis, C. S. *The Chronicles of Narnia*. San Francisco: Harper Collins, 2004.
- . *The Four Loves*. San Diego: Harvest Books, 1988.
- . *Till We Have Faces: A Myth Retold*. New York: Harvest Books, 1980.
- Lindsay, Kathryn Ann. *The Lion of Judah in Never-Never Land*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1973.*
- MacDonald, George. *At the Back of the North Wind*. Uhrichsville, OH: Barbour Publishing, 2005. (or use the Puffin Books edition)
- Sayers, Dorothy L. *Gaudy Night*. San Francisco: Harper Torch, 1995.
- . *The Mind of the Maker*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1987.
- Tolkien, J. R. R. *The Lord of the Rings Trilogy (Omnibus)*. SFBC, 2001.
- Williams, Charles. *The Place of the Lion*. Regent College Publishing, 2003.

Texts listed above are divided into those that everyone must read and those that specific groups must read and everyone is invited to read. Any reputable edition of these books will be acceptable.

*Lindsay's book is out of print, but may be purchased used through various on-line sources. Also consider using one of these books:

Kilby, Clyde S. *The Christian World of C. S. Lewis*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1964.

Hooper, Walter. *Past Watchful Dragons: The Narnian Chronicles of C. S. Lewis*. New York: Collier Books, 1979.

Course

Description: English 425: The Oxford Christian Writers, is an author focus course treating C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, and their circle of friends now known as the Oxford Christians. This course emphasizes learning to appreciate the writings of these authors by examining biography, literary criticism, film, and a wide variety of methods for reading and interpreting the theology, philosophy, and various themes represented in their works.

Course

Requirements: This course will function like a seminar in which students are expected to enjoy reading and discussing great literature. Because some of the volumes being discussed are lengthy, students who have not already read them are encouraged to read as richly and deeply as possible. Multimedia presentations will assist students with this process, but cannot replace their own diligence. The course requirements for a grade are as follows:

Exam I	150 points
Exam II	150 points
Exam III	150 points
Group Project	150 points
Reading Journal	100 points
Class Participation	100 points
Paper	<u>200 points</u>
Total	1000 points

At the end of the semester, grades will be assigned as follows:

900 points and above	= A	600-699 points	= D
800-899 points	= B	559 points and below	= F
700-799 points	= C		

Exams will include a variety of objective and short answer questions related to the respective unit. Questions will cover material from lectures, group presentations, and assigned reading.

Group projects will involve making a formal presentation on one or two works by a given author, along with presenting biography for this writer. The middle portion of the course will be devoted to group presentations. Each group will present one author over a period of one or two class periods and help lead discussion of the works assigned. Presenters should share a handout including a timeline for the author, along with a list of works by that author and some useful secondary sources. Students are encouraged to use multi-media sources and Power Point for their presentations.

Reading Journal: As a means for preparing students for classroom participation, all students are required to keep a reading journal of reading done for each class and a record of class notes. Each entry should include a record of time spent reading, a paragraph or two of response to some important aspect of the reading done, and a set of notes from class, all properly dated. Students are welcome to comment on virtually any aspect of the literature being discussed. Observations should demonstrate a careful and purposeful reading of the text, and a thoughtful summary of the in class discussion. Entries may be typed or hand written in blue or black ink. Keep these materials in a 3/4”

to 1" three-ring binder. Upon occasion this course will involve exercises, either in-class or take-home. These will also count as part of your class participation grade and need to be kept in your reading journal. ***These reading journals will be collected and graded at various times throughout the semester and must be ready to turn in whenever requested in class.***

Class Participation: Because English 425 involves considerable in-class discussion, students are expected to attend all classes. Any absences will affect the student's performance in this course, and may affect his or her grade. If a student misses more than six classes (3 weeks), the student will automatically fail himself or herself in the course. A limited number of make up options may be offered for students facing unanticipated and unavoidable conflicts. Late arrivals and early departures will result in a partial or total loss for class attendance. To receive full credit for attendance, students must bring their books regularly to class. Furthermore, students are expected to be attentive and respectful in class.

Paper: To receive credit in English 425, each student is to complete a 10-12 page (3000-3600 word) paper treating some literary aspect of the writers' careers and writings covered in this course. This paper should include at least 8 scholarly secondary sources, in addition to the primary sources used. Students may consider a wide range of topics, such as an analysis of one or two characters in a novel, or a discussion of fairy tales as a means for conveying theological truths, or the nature of heroism in a given novel or series of novels, or the problem of witchcraft as a source of inspiration in the works of Charles Williams. ***The topic for this paper is to be cleared with the instructor no later than March 7, 2007.*** By this date students should present the instructor with a one-page proposal along with a list of at least eight scholarly sources. The proposal should present the proposed thesis and discuss how this argument is to be developed in a context of the secondary sources listed. Both the proposal and the final paper should be written in proper MLA format and use proper documentation throughout. ***The paper is due no later than April 9, 2007. No late papers accepted. Early submissions are welcome.***

Type all assignments on standard-sized, regular bond typing paper. On page one, double-space your name, instructor, course and section number, and date on four separate lines in the upper left side of the page and within the one inch margins. Place the title on the second line below the information block just described, and then type the first line of your paper on the second line below the title. Double-space the text and leave one-inch margins. Place your name, section number, the current date, and a page number across the top of each page; triple-space after this heading before starting to type the text. Paper clip (do not staple) all assignments.

Plagiarism: One of the best signs of maturity is respect for other people's property and rights. Taking other people's ideas, formulas, phrases, or writings without giving proper credit constitutes a theft, commonly known as plagiarism. Any student found guilty of this crime will be subject to failure in English 425 and possible further disciplinary action by the Academic Dean's Office. Use of papers written for other courses is also an academic crime and will result in a failing grade.

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January	8 (M)	Introduction to course
	10 (W)	C. S. Lewis: Biography & Overview of Oxford Christians
	15 (M)	Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday
	17 (W)	C. S. Lewis— <i>The Four Loves</i>
	22 (M)	C. S. Lewis— <i>The Four Loves</i>
	24 (W)	<i>The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe</i>
	29 (M)	<i>The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe</i>
	31 (W)	<i>The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe</i>
February	5 (M)	<i>The Chronicles of Narnia</i> —The Rest of the Story
	7 (W)	<i>Shadowlands</i> --film
	12 (M)	<i>Shadowlands</i> --film & <i>Till We Have Faces</i>
	14 (W)	<i>Till We Have Faces</i>
	19 (M)	President's Day—no classes
	21 (W)	<i>Till We Have Faces</i>
	26 (M)	Exam I—C. S. Lewis
	28 (W)	Group I—George MacDonald, <i>At the Back of the North Wind</i>
March	5 (M)	Group I—George MacDonald, <i>At the Back of the North Wind</i>
	7 (W)	Group II—Charles Williams, <i>The Place of the Lion</i> Proposal for Paper Topic Due
	12-16	Spring Break
	19 (M)	Group II—Charles Williams, <i>The Place of the Lion</i>
	21 (W)	Group III—Dorothy Sayers, <i>The Mind of the Maker</i>
	26 (M)	Group III—Dorothy Sayers, <i>Gaudy Night</i>
March	28 (W)	Exam II—MacDonald, Williams, and Sayers

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April	2 (M)	J. R. R. Tolkien—Biography & “On Fairy-Stories”
	4 (W)	J. R. R. Tolkien— <i>Lord of the Rings</i>
	9 (M)	J. R. R. Tolkien— <i>Lord of the Rings</i> Paper is Due
	11 (W)	J. R. R. Tolkien— <i>Lord of the Rings</i>
	16 (M)	J. R. R. Tolkien— <i>Lord of the Rings</i>
	18 (W)	J. R. R. Tolkien— <i>Lord of the Rings</i>
	23 (M)	J. R. R. Tolkien— <i>Lord of the Rings</i>
	25 (W)	Preparation for Final Exam Course Evaluations
April 30-May 3		TBA—Exam III on Tolkien

N.B.: This is a tentative schedule and may be adjusted to meet student needs better. Stay alert to adjustments in the content and scheduling of assignments.