

ENGL 3356-110 Literary Author: J.R.R. Tolkien

Texas A&M University – Central Texas

Fall 2019

Instructor: Dr. Amber Dunai

Email: Canvas Course Email

Alternate Email: adunai@tamuct.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5789

Modality: Face-to-Face

Meeting Room: FH 212

Meeting Times: MW 1-2:15 PM

Office Hours: MW 12-1 PM & by appointment

Office: HH 204K

Course Description

An in-depth study of a single author or a single group of closely related authors. Topics vary and the course can be repeated for credit if taken under a different emphasis.

This semester's topic is the creative writing of J.R.R. Tolkien and its influence on twentieth- and twenty-first-century popular culture, including literature, film, gaming, and other media.

Objectives

By the end of this course, you should be able to:

- Perform close readings of assigned texts in addition to analyzing them in terms of relevant literary, biographical, and historical contexts.
- Construct spoken and written analyses of assigned texts and support your scholarly arguments with evidence from relevant sources.
- Identify an area of popular culture which has been influenced by J.R.R. Tolkien's creative work, research it by gathering and reading relevant primary and secondary sources, and
- Produce an essay and short in-class presentation on your chosen topic.

Required Textbooks

J. R. R. Tolkien. *The Hobbit*. ISBN: 978-0547928227

J. R. R. Tolkien. *The Lord of the Rings*. ISBN: 978-0618640157

Additional readings will be made available through TAMU-CT library e-reserves or on Canvas.

Course Reading Schedule

Readings should be completed by the day on which they are listed. While minor assignments are not included in this schedule, major assignments are listed for your convenience.

Abbreviation Key: *ER* (Electronic Reserve); *LotR* (Lord of the Rings)

WEEK 1	8/26: Introduction; 8/28: ER: “On Fairy-Stories” excerpt, “Mythopoeia”
WEEK 2	9/2: Labor Day – No Class Meeting; 9/4: ER: “Smith of Wooton Major,” “Sellic Spell”
WEEK 3	9/9: <i>Hobbit</i> Ch. 1-5; 9/11: <i>Hobbit</i> Ch. 6-10
WEEK 4	9/16: <i>Hobbit</i> Ch. 11-15; 9/18: <i>Hobbit</i> Ch. 16-19
WEEK 5	9/23: ER: <i>Silmarillion</i> Excerpt (“Ainulindalë”); 9/25: ER: <i>J.R.R. Tolkien Encyclopedia</i> excerpts
WEEK 6	9/30: <i>LotR</i> Book 1 Prologue, Ch. 1-3; 10/2: <i>LotR</i> Book 1 Ch. 4-7
WEEK 7	10/7: <i>LotR</i> Book 1 Ch. 8-10; 10/9: <i>LotR</i> Book 1 Ch. 11-12, ER: <i>Silmarillion</i> excerpt (“Of Beren and Lúthien”); Essay 1 Due
WEEK 8	10/14: <i>LotR</i> Book 2 Ch. 1-2; 10/16: <i>LotR</i> Book 2 Ch. 3-6
WEEK 9	10/21: <i>LotR</i> Book 2 Ch. 7-10; 10/23: <i>LotR</i> Book 3 Ch. 1-4
WEEK 10	10/28: <i>LotR</i> Book 3 Ch. 5-7; 10/30: <i>LotR</i> Book 3 Ch. 8-11
WEEK 11	11/4: <i>LotR</i> Book 4 Ch. 1-3; 11/6: <i>LotR</i> Book 4 Ch. 4-7
WEEK 12	11/11: Veterans Day – No Class Meeting; 11/13: <i>LotR</i> Book 4 Ch. 8-10
WEEK 13	11/18: <i>LotR</i> Book 5 Ch. 1-4; 11/20: <i>LotR</i> Book 5 Ch. 5-7
WEEK 14	11/25: <i>LotR</i> Book 5 Ch. 8-10; 11/27: Online Work Day; Essay 2 Due
WEEK 15	12/2: <i>LotR</i> Book 6 Ch. 1-5; 12/6: <i>LotR</i> Book 6 Ch. 6-9
WEEK 16	12/9: Concluding Thoughts; 12/11: No Class Meeting

Grades

10% Participation

20% Short Written Reflections

25% Essay 1

25% Essay 2

20% Tolkien & Pop Culture Project

Grading scale: 90-100: A; 80-89: B; 70-79: C; 60-69: D; 0-59: F

All grades will be posted to Canvas’s grade book, and students will be able to view their grades (along with instructor feedback) as they are returned. You can generally expect grades to be returned within one week of the assignment deadline.

Major Assignment Due Dates

Essay 1: Wednesday, October 9 (11:59 PM)

Essay 2: Wednesday, November 27 (11:59 PM)

Tolkien & Pop Culture Project: Due at the beginning of class on the selected presentation date.

Participation

Participation is based on course attendance and involvement in class discussions and activities. You will receive a participation score (rated 0-10, with 10 representing excellent participation and 0 representing no participation) at the end of each week, and the average of weekly participation scores will determine the final participation score. A participation rubric will be distributed during Week 1. See the Attendance Policy for information regarding the participation score and absences.

Short Written Reflections

You will complete a total of nine short written reflections at least 400 words in length each between Weeks 3 and 12 of the semester; they are assigned each week which does not have a major assignment due. Reflections are due at 11:59 PM on the Wednesday of each week they are assigned. You will receive a prompt with more information regarding short written reflections during Week 1.

Essays 1 & 2

Over the course of the semester prompts and rubrics for two analytical essays will be made available. The essays will be 4-6 pages in length. See the prompt and rubric for each essay for specific requirements regarding content and sources. Each essay will be submitted to VeriCite via the assignment links in Canvas.

Tolkien and Pop Culture Project

This project will involve researching and writing a short research essay (3-4 pages) on a specific area of popular culture influenced by the literature of J.R.R. Tolkien. This assignment also includes a short in-class presentation and led discussion of the paper topic. After having their topic approved during the early weeks of the semester, each student will select a deadline on which to submit the essay and lead class discussion of the topic. You will receive a prompt with more information regarding the project during Week 1. The essay will be submitted to VeriCite via the assignment links in Canvas.

Instructor Availability

You are welcome to contact me with questions or comments via email (but please send emails to me via the Canvas messaging system only, unless the site is down). I endeavor to answer all emails within 24 hours of receiving them, not counting weekends and holidays. Appointments are not required during regularly-held office hours (see top of syllabus for details); you can stop by at any time during office hours. You may request an appointment outside normal office

hours in person or by email; however, I do ask that any appointment request be made *at least* 24 hours in advance of the desired meeting time. Do not assume that the meeting will take place unless I have responded to your request and confirmed the time. **Please only request an appointment if it is impossible for you to meet during regularly-scheduled office hours.**

Draft Review Policy

Students often ask me whether I'll look at major assignment drafts and give advice on how to improve them. The answer is yes, with two requirements. First, students who wish for me to review an entire draft must come to office hours or make an appointment to do so and must bring a print copy of the draft with them. I will not review drafts that are emailed to me with no explanation; over email, I will only address specific questions that can be answered in a brief email response. Second, students who wish for me to review an entire draft should also come to the meeting with two or three specific areas in their assignment that they'd like to discuss. You might mention paragraph organization/structure, thesis statement strength, or other such topics. This does not mean that I will not comment on other areas for improvement; I have found that beginning by discussing specific aspects of the project identified by the student helps to make the meeting time more effective and focused.

Classroom Etiquette

Students are to maintain a high level of collegiality and respect when interacting with one another and the instructor. Disagreements are a normal and often productive aspect of academic discourse, and differences in viewpoint relevant to the class meeting may be expressed and explored during discussion portions of the class. However, participants engaged in any variety of classroom discussion must remain respectful to all parties involved and focused on a topic relevant to the class meeting. Students who do not abide by these requirements (either through showing disrespect to others or through refusing to remain on-topic) will be asked to leave the classroom.

Late Submission Policy

I do not accept late/make-up work for assignments unless the student has missed the deadline due to an excused reason (for example, an illness or emergency situation experienced by the student or a member of his or her immediate family). Whenever possible, students should notify me before the assignment deadline if they believe they cannot meet it and let me know why. At that time, I will determine whether an extension is appropriate (based upon the student's reason for missing the deadline) and, if it is, set a new deadline.

After a new deadline for the assignment is established, you must abide by this deadline or else receive a zero on the assignment. *In all situations regarding missed and/or extended deadlines,*

it is the student's responsibility to contact the instructor if any issues arise. If I do not hear from you and do not have your submission after a deadline passes, I will assume that you do not intend to turn in the assignment and will put a zero in the gradebook. Additionally, extensions must be requested in a timely manner. If a student has not requested an extension within two calendar days (48 hours) of the deadline, the grade will remain zero unless the student can provide a reasonable explanation regarding why it was not possible to contact me sooner.

Attendance Policy

Because class meetings this semester will be light on lecture and heavy on activity and discussion, attendance is of utmost importance. You may miss up to two classes without an excused reason (for example, an illness or emergency situation experienced by the student or a member of his or her immediate family) before your participation score will be affected. Any unexcused absences beyond these two will result in a zero participation score for the missed day, which will be factored into the participation score at the end of the week. **Any in-class activities or assignments (including exams) missed without an excused reason cannot be made up, even if they are missed during the two "free" absences.** A sign-in sheet will be passed around during each class meeting; it is your responsibility to initial the sheet to record your attendance each meeting.

That said, if you anticipate missing a class, please contact me as soon as possible and let me know why. I understand that students have busy lives and that occasionally events will take place that will prevent your attending class; frequently, if I am notified of an absence beforehand and given a reasonable explanation why the student cannot attend, I am willing to excuse it. However, you must let me know (either in person or via email) about upcoming absences as early as possible, or no later than two calendar days (48 hours) after the missed class if you are unable to let me know in advance. After two calendar days have passed, unless you are able to give me a good reason for being unable to notify me sooner, the absence will remain unexcused.

Program Assessment Statement

To ensure the learning outcomes are met in the English Department, there is a program-wide artifact collection process. To that end, some of the projects you complete for ENGL 3356 this semester may be used for programmatic assessment. Please note that all efforts will be made to keep your identity anonymous; as such, all identifying markers will be removed from your work if used for programmatic assessment. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Dunai.

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete a [Drop Request Form](https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf) [https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/docs/Drop_Request_Form.pdf].

Professors cannot drop students; this is always the responsibility of the student. The Registrar's Office will provide a deadline on the Academic Calendar for which the form must be completed, signed and returned. Once you return the signed form to the Registrar's Office, you must go into Warrior Web and confirm that you are no longer enrolled. If you still show as enrolled, FOLLOW-UP with the Registrar's Office immediately. You are to attend class until the procedure is complete to avoid penalty for absence. Should you miss the drop deadline or fail to follow the procedure, you will receive an F in the course, which may affect your financial aid and/or VA educational benefits.

Incompletes

Incompletes are only assigned due to unexpected emergency situations which occur after the final drop date (for example, an emergency medical situation experienced by the student). If you simply find yourself overwhelmed by the semester's demands, you do not qualify for an incomplete. If you experience an emergency which you believe will prevent you from completing the semester's work before the final drop date, you are expected to drop. If you experience an unexpected emergency situation *after* the final drop date which you believe will prevent you from completing the semester's work, please contact me as soon as possible so that we can discuss whether you qualify for an incomplete.

Technology Statement

Technology Requirements:

All work submitted this semester must be in Microsoft Word or PDF format, and you must be able to open Microsoft Word and PDF files on your computer in order to access important course documents.

This course will use the TAMUCT Instructure Canvas learning management system.
Logon to TAMUCT Canvas [https://tamuct.instructure.com]

Username: Your MyCT username

(xx123 or everything before the "@" in your MyCT e-mail address)

Password: Your MyCT password

Canvas Support

Use the Canvas Help link, located at the bottom of the left-hand menu, for issues with Canvas. You can select “Chat with Canvas Support,” submit a support request through “Report a Problem,” or call the Canvas support line: 1-844-757-0953.

For issues related to course content and requirements, contact your instructor.

Other Technology Support

For log-in problems, students should contact Help Desk Central.

24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

Email: helpdesk@tamu.edu

Phone: (254) 519-5466

Web Chat: [<http://hdc.tamu.edu>]

Please let the support technician know you are an A&M-Central Texas student.

Academic Integrity

Texas A&M University -Central Texas values the integrity of the academic enterprise and strives for the highest standards of academic conduct. A&M-Central Texas expects its students, faculty, and staff to support the adherence to high standards of personal and scholarly conduct to preserve the honor and integrity of the creative community. Academic integrity is defined as a commitment to honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. Any deviation by students from this expectation may result in a failing grade for the assignment and potentially a failing grade for the course. Academic misconduct is any act that improperly affects a true and honest evaluation of a student’s academic performance and includes, but is not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work, plagiarism and improper citation of sources, using another student’s work, collusion, and the abuse of resource materials. All academic misconduct concerns will be reported to the university’s Office of Student Conduct. Ignorance of the university’s standards and expectations is never an excuse to act with a lack of integrity. When in doubt on collaboration, citation, or any issue, please contact your instructor before taking a course of action.

For more [information regarding the Student Conduct process](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html),
[<https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html>].

If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may [submit a report](https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0),
[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=0].

Instructor’s Note on Plagiarism and Academic Integrity:

Plagiarism is the act of presenting another person’s work as if it were your own or failing to acknowledge your sources. This might be done by quoting a source without indicating that you

are quoting (if you neglect to include quotation marks and/or a citation); paraphrasing or summarizing without acknowledging your source; and/or taking part or all of another text and presenting it as your own. Self-plagiarism (also known as “recycling” an assignment) means submitting part or all of an assignment that you previously submitted for credit; this is also not permitted. You are responsible for understanding how to use sources correctly and ethically. You are also responsible for understanding how to cite a source which you have quoted, paraphrased, or summarized. This course uses the 8th edition of MLA for formatting and citations. You can access the guidelines online at the Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL) website: [https://owl.purdue.edu/owl/research_and_citation/mla_style/mla_formatting_and_style_guide/mla_formatting_and_style_guide.html].

If you have questions about using and citing sources, please ask. I am always happy to explain how to cite sources correctly and to provide any clarification needed regarding questions of academic integrity. Be aware that any assignment that fails to attribute sources properly, was written in part or in whole by someone other than the student who submitted it, and/or was previously submitted for credit to another course will receive a grade of zero and will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct. Likewise, any other violations of academic integrity (such as collaborating on an assignment when the instructions are to work individually) will result in a grade of zero on the assignment in question and a report to the Office of Student Conduct. All major writing assignments will be checked for plagiarism via a service such as VeriCite.

Academic Accommodations

At Texas A&M University-Central Texas, we value an inclusive learning environment where every student has an equal chance to succeed and has the right to a barrier-free education. The Office of Access and Inclusion is responsible for ensuring that students with a disability receive equal access to the university’s programs, services and activities. If you believe you have a disability requiring reasonable accommodations please contact the Office of Access and Inclusion, WH-212; or call (254) 501-5836. Any information you provide is private and confidential and will be treated as such.

For more information please visit our [Access & Inclusion](https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717) Canvas page (log-in required) [<https://tamuct.instructure.com/courses/717>]

Important information for Pregnant and/or Parenting Students

Texas A&M University-Central Texas supports students who are pregnant and/or parenting. In accordance with requirements of Title IX and related guidance from US Department of Education’s Office of Civil Rights, the Dean of Student Affairs’ Office can assist students who are

pregnant and/or parenting in seeking accommodations related to pregnancy and/or parenting. Students should seek out assistance as early in the pregnancy as possible. For more information, please visit the [Student Affairs](https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html) web page [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/index.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these [requirements and guidelines online](http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf), please visit the website [http://www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/docs/pregnancy.pdf].

Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex and gender—including pregnancy, parenting, and all related conditions. A&M-Central Texas is able to provide flexible and individualized reasonable accommodation to pregnant and parenting students. All pregnant and parenting students should contact the Associate Dean in the Division of Student Affairs at (254) 501-5909 to seek out assistance. Students may also contact the University's Title IX Coordinator.

The University Writing Center

Located in Warrior Hall 416, the University Writing Center (UWC) at Texas A&M University—Central Texas (TAMUCT) is a free workspace open to all TAMUCT students from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday with satellite hours in the University Library Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. This semester, the UWC is also offering online only hours from 12:00-3:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

Tutors are prepared to help writers of all levels and abilities at any stage of the writing process. While tutors will not write, edit, or grade papers, they will assist students in developing more effective composing practices. By providing a practice audience for students' ideas and writing, our tutors highlight the ways in which they read and interpret students' texts, offering guidance and support throughout the various stages of the writing process. In addition, students may work independently in the UWC by checking out a laptop that runs the Microsoft Office suite and connects to WIFI, or by consulting our resources on writing, including all of the relevant style guides. Whether you need help brainstorming ideas, organizing an essay, proofreading, understanding proper citation practices, or just want a quiet place to work, the UWC is here to help!

Students may arrange a one-to-one session with a trained and experienced writing tutor by visiting the UWC during normal operating hours (both half-hour and hour sessions are available) or by making an appointment via [WOnline](https://tamuct.mywconline.com/) [https://tamuct.mywconline.com/]. In addition, you can email Dr. Bruce Bowles Jr. at bruce.bowles@tamuct.edu if you have any questions about the UWC and/or need any assistance with scheduling

Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both on-campus and online. Subjects tutored on campus include Accounting, Advanced Math, Biology, Finance,

Statistics, Mathematics, and Study Skills. Tutors are available at the Tutoring Center in Warrior Hall, Suite 111. Tutor.com tutoring **will not** offer writing support beginning August 1, 2019.

If you have a question regarding tutor schedules, need to schedule a tutoring session, are interested in becoming a tutor, or have any other question, contact Academic Support Programs at (254) 519-5796, or by emailing Dr. DeEadra Albert-Green at deeadra.albertgreen@tamuct.edu.

Chat live with a tutor 24/7 for almost any subject from on your computer! Tutor.com is an online tutoring platform that enables A&M-Central Texas students to log in and receive online tutoring support at no additional cost. This tool provides tutoring in over 40 subject areas. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

Library Services

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 250,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 85,000 items in our print collection, which can be mailed to students who live more than 50 miles from campus. Research guides for each subject taught at A&M-Central Texas are available through our website to help students navigate these resources. On campus, the library offers technology including cameras, laptops, microphones, webcams, and digital sound recorders.

Research assistance from a librarian is also available 24 hours a day through our online chat service, and at the reference desk when the library is open. Research sessions can be scheduled for more comprehensive assistance, and may take place on Skype or in-person at the library. Assistance may cover many topics, including how to find articles in peer-reviewed journals, how to cite resources, and how to piece together research for written assignments.

Our 27,000-square-foot facility on the A&M-Central Texas main campus includes student lounges, private study rooms, group work spaces, computer labs, family areas suitable for all ages, and many other features. Services such as interlibrary loan, TexShare, binding, and laminating are available. The library frequently offers workshops, tours, readings, and other events. For more information, please visit our [Library website](http://tamuct.libguides.com/index) [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

Warrior Shield

Emergency Warning System for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

Warrior Shield is an emergency notification service that gives Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate health and safety emergency information quickly via email,

text message, and social media. All students are automatically enrolled in Warrior Shield through their myCT email account.

Connect to Warrior Shield by [911Cellular](https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login) [https://portal.publicsafetycloud.net/Account/Login] to change where you receive your alerts or to opt out. By staying enrolled in Warrior Shield, university officials can quickly pass on safety-related information, regardless of your location.

Copyright Notice

Students should assume that all course material is copyrighted by the respective author(s). Reproduction of course material is prohibited without consent by the author and/or course instructor. Violation of copyright is against the law and Texas A&M University-Central Texas' Code of Academic Honesty. All alleged violations will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

The professor reserves the right to amend this syllabus at any time. If changes are required, students will be notified immediately and provided with a copy of the updated section(s).