ENGL 3356-110 Literary Authors: Tolkien & Popular Culture

Texas A&M University – Central Texas

Spring 2022 Mode of Instruction: Classroom Blended

Instructor: Dr. Amber Dunai Meeting Room: FH 212

Email: Canvas Course Email Meeting Times: Mon 2-3:15 PM

Alternate Email: adunai@tamuct.edu Office Hours: Mon 1-2 PM & by appointment

Phone: (254) 519-5789 Office: HH 204K

Course Description

3 credit hours. 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.

Prerequisite(s): ENGL 1301.

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 and cultural contexts.
- Investigate connections among Tolkien's publications as well as between his work, his source materials, and areas of popular culture influenced by Tolkien.
- Defend your arguments in thoughtful and well-organized analyses supported by reference to and discussion of appropriate primary and secondary sources.
- Identify an area of popular culture which has been influenced by Tolkien's creative work, research it by gathering and reading relevant primary and secondary sources, and produce a scholarly 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 Schedule

Readings should be completed by the day on which they are listed.

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

WEEK 1	1/17: MLK Holiday: No Class Meeting
	1/21: Online Activity Due: Week 1 Discussion Forum
WEEK 2	1/24: Class Meeting. Reading Due: ER: "On-Fairy-Stories" excerpt, "Smith of Wooton Major"
	1/28: Online Activity Due: Week 2 Discussion Forum
WEEK 3	1/31: Class Meeting. Reading Due: Hobbit Ch. 1-10; Short Written Reflection 1 Due
	2/4: Online Activity Due: Week 3 Discussion Forum
WEEK 4	2/7: Class Meeting. Reading Due: Hobbit Ch. 11-19; Short Written Reflection 2 Due
	2/11: Online Activity Due: Week 4 Discussion Forum
WEEK 5	2/14: Class Meeting. Reading Due: ER: <i>Silmarillion</i> Excerpt ("Ainulindalë"), <i>LotR</i> Book 1 Prologue, Ch. 1-3
	2/18: Online Activity Due: Week 5 Discussion Forum
WEEK 6	2/21: Class Meeting. Reading Due: LotR Book 1 Ch. 4-10; Short Written Reflection 3 Due
	2/25: Online Activity Due: Week 6 Discussion Forum
WEEK 7	2/28: Class Meeting. Reading Due: LotR Book 1 Ch. 11-12, ER: Silmarillion excerpt ("Of Beren and Lúthien"); LotR Book 2 Ch. 1-2
	3/4: Online Activity Due: Work day: schedule an appointment to discuss Essay 1 progress as needed; Essay 1 Due
WEEK 8	3/7: Class Meeting. Reading Due: LotR Book 2 Ch. 3-10; Short Written
	Reflection 4 Due
	3/11: Online Activity Due: Week 8 Discussion Forum
Spring Brea	k: 3/14 - 3/18
WEEK 9	3/21: Class Meeting. Reading Due: LotR Book 3 Ch. 1-7; Short Written

3/21: Class Meeting. Reading Due: Loth Book 3 Ch. 1-7; Short Written
Reflection 5 Due
3/25: Online Activity Due: Week 9 Discussion Forum
3/28: Class Meeting. Reading Due: LotR Book 3 Ch. 8-11, LotR Book 4 Ch. 1-3
4/1: Online Activity Due: Week 10 Discussion Forum
4/4: Class Meeting. Reading Due: LotR Book 4 Ch. 4-10; Short Written
Reflection 6 Due

4/8: Online Activity Due: Week 11 Discussion Forum **WEEK 12** 4/11: Class Meeting. Reading Due: LotR Book 4 Ch. 8-10, LotR Book 5 Ch. 1-4 **4/15: Online Activity Due:** Week 12 Discussion Forum **WEEK 13** 4/18: Class Meeting. Reading Due: LotR Book 5 Ch. 5-10; Short Written Reflection 7 Due **4/22: Online Activity Due:** Week 13 Discussion Forum **WEEK 14** 4/25: Class Meeting. Reading Due: LotR Book 6 Ch. 1-6 **4/29: Online Activity Due:** Week 14 Discussion Forum **WEEK 15** 5/2: Class Meeting. Reading Due: LotR Book 6 Ch. 7-9; Short Written Reflection 8 Due 5/6: Online Activity Due: Work day: schedule an appointment to discuss Essay 2 progress as needed; Essay 2 Due **5/9: Class Meeting. Reading Due:** ER: "Leaf by Niggle" **WEEK 16**

Grades

15% Participation20% Short Written Reflections25% Essay 125% Essay 215% Tolkien and Popular 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: Friday, March 4 (11:59 PM) Essay 2: Friday, May 6 (11:59 PM)

Tolkien & Pop Culture Project: Due by 11:59 PM on Friday of the selected presentation week.

Participation

Participation is based on involvement in both classroom and online discussions and activities. This is a blended class, meaning that one half of the week's participation is based on the Monday face-to-face meeting, and the second half is based on an online activity due by the end of the week. 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. See the Attendance Policy for information regarding the participation score and absences.

Short Written Reflections

You will complete a total of eight short written reflections at least 400 words in length over the course of the semester. Reflections are due at 11:59 PM on the Monday 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 for two analytical essays will be made available. The essays will be 4-6 pages in length. See the prompt for each essay for specific requirements regarding content and sources. You will receive a prompt for each essay during Week 1.

Tolkien and Popular Culture Project

This project will involve researching and crafting an engaging, professional presentation on a specific area of popular culture influenced by the creative work of J.R.R. Tolkien. Presentations are to be recorded using Studio or another program and posted to the discussion board on Canvas. After having their topic approved during the early weeks of the semester, each student will select a deadline by which to post their presentation to the discussion board. You will receive a prompt with more information on the project during Week 1.

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, unless the site is down). I endeavor to answer all emails within 24 hours of receiving them, not counting weekends and holidays. Office hour meetings are available by appointment via WebEx. You may request an appointment by email. I do ask that any appointment request be made *at least* 24 hours in advance of the desired meeting time to guarantee that I have time to review and respond to them. Do not assume that the meeting will take place unless I have responded to your request, confirmed the time, and sent you a WebEx invitation.

Draft Review Policy

Students often ask me whether I'll look at drafts of writing assignments and give advice on how to improve them. The answer is yes; however, students who wish for me to review an entire draft must schedule an appointment in order to discuss the paper. I will not review drafts that are emailed to me with no explanation; over email, I will limit my commentary to specific items

that can be answered in a brief email response. Additionally, I will not predict the grade that a draft might receive either prior to or after revision.

Course Etiquette

Students are to maintain a high level of collegiality and respect when interacting with one another and the instructor, whether in the classroom, over email, during a WebEx meeting, or on the discussion board. The same expectations for professional and respectful behavior apply online as in the face-to-face classroom. Disagreements are a normal and often productive aspect of academic discourse, and differences in viewpoint relevant to course content may be expressed and explored during discussion activities. However, participants engaged in discussion must remain respectful to all parties involved and focused on topics relevant to the activity at hand.

Late Submission Policy

Generally, I do not accept late/make-up work for assignments unless the student has missed the deadline due to an excused reason. However, I will consider granting extensions *before the deadline has passed* if students are facing challenges which merit one. Whenever possible, students should notify me **before** the assignment deadline if they believe they cannot meet it. At that time, I will determine whether an extension is appropriate and, if so, 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 involving 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

This is a discussion-based course, and for this reason participation is of utmost importance. For a blended class like this one, the participation score is based on engagement in both classroom and online activities. You may miss up to two opportunities to participate (where an opportunity to participate includes both weekly class meetings and weekly online activities) without an excused reason before your participation score will be affected. Any unexcused absences beyond these two will result in a zero-participation score for the missed activity (in-

person or online), which will be factored into the participation score at the end of the week. See the Participation section above for more details.

If you know ahead of time that it will be impossible for you to attend an in-person meeting or that you cannot complete an online activity by the deadline, please email me as soon as you can and let me know. In such cases, I am willing to consider either excusing an absence (for example, if illness prevented attendance of a classroom meeting: this would clearly be an excused absence) or extending the deadline for an online activity. I do ask that, if you think that an absence/missed deadline is unavoidable for reasons you believe merit special consideration, you reach out to me within 48 hours of the missed class/activity.

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 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.

Important University Dates

For important university dates, see https://www.tamuct.edu/registrar/academic-calendar.html.

Drop Policy

If you discover that you need to drop this class, you must complete the <u>Drop Request</u> Dynamic Form through Warrior Web.

[https://dynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com/casAuthentication.ashx?InstID=eaed95b9-f2be-45f3-a37d-

46928168bc10&targetUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fdynamicforms.ngwebsolutions.com%2FSubmit%2FForm%2FStart%2F53b8369e-0502-4f36-be43-f02a4202f612].

Faculty 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. Once you submit the completed 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.

In order to attend WebEx office hours appointment with the instructor, you will require a device with both speakers and a microphone (you can also join a WebEx meeting via telephone). Camera use during WebEx meetings is encouraged but optional.

This course will use the A&M-Central Texas Instructure Canvas learning management system. We strongly recommend the latest versions of Chrome or Firefox browsers. Canvas no longer supports any version of Internet Explorer.

Logon to A&M-Central Texas Canvas [https://tamuct.instructure.com/] or access Canvas through the TAMUCT Online link in myCT [https://tamuct.onecampus.com/]. You will log in through our Microsoft portal.

Username: Your MyCT email 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.

Online Proctored Testing

A&M-Central Texas uses Proctorio for online identity verification and proctored testing. This service is provided at no direct cost to students. If the course requires identity verification or

proctored testing, the technology requirements are: Any computer meeting the minimum computing requirements, plus web camera, speaker, and microphone (or headset). Proctorio also requires the Chrome web browser with their custom plug in.

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 <u>information regarding the Student Conduct process</u>, [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/student-conduct.html]. If you know of potential honor violations by other students, you may <u>submit a report</u>, [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 in a course; 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 9th edition of MLA for formatting and citations. You can access the guidelines online at the <u>Purdue Online Writing Lab (OWL)</u> 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 originality through a plagiarism-detecting service when they are uploaded to the assignment link.

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 Warrior Center for Student Success, Equity 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 <u>Access & Inclusion</u> 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 <u>Student Affairs</u> [https://www.tamuct.edu/student-affairs/pregnant-and-parenting-students.html]. Students may also contact the institution's Title IX Coordinator. If you would like to read more about these <u>requirements and guidelines</u> online, 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 (A&M—Central Texas) is a free service open to all A&M—Central Texas students. For the Spring 2022 semester, the hours of operation are from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Monday thru Thursday in Warrior Hall 416 (with online tutoring available every hour as well) with satellite hours available online only Monday thru Thursday from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday 12:00-3:00 p.m.

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 making an appointment via WCOnline at 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, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor by making an appointment via WCOnline at 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, need any assistance with scheduling, or would like to schedule a recurring appointment with your favorite tutor.

Tutoring

Tutoring is available to all A&M-Central Texas students, both virtually and in-person. Student success coaching is available online upon request.

If you have a question, are interested in becoming a tutor, or in need of success coaching contact the Warrior Center for Student Success, Equity and Inclusion at (254) 501-5836, visit the Warrior Center at 212 Warrior Hall, or by emailing WarriorCenter@tamuct.edu.

To schedule tutoring sessions and view tutor availability, please visit <u>Tutor Matching</u>

<u>Services</u> [https://tutormatchingservice.com/TAMUCT] or visit the Tutoring Center in 111

Warrior Hall.

Chat live with a remote 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 except writing support. Access Tutor.com through Canvas.

University Library

The University Library provides many services in support of research across campus and at a distance. We offer over 200 electronic databases containing approximately 400,000 eBooks and 82,000 journals, in addition to the 96,000 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 virtually through WebEx, Microsoft Teams or in-person at the library. Schedule an appointment

<u>here</u> [https://tamuct.libcal.com/appointments/?g=6956]. 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 <u>Library website</u> [http://tamuct.libguides.com/index].

A Note About Sexual Violence at A&M-Central Texas

Sexual violence is a serious safety, social justice, and public health issue. The university offers support for anyone struggling with these issues. University faculty are mandated reporters, so if someone discloses that they were sexually assaulted (or a victim of Domestic/Dating Violence or Stalking) while a student at TAMUCT, faculty members are required to inform the Title IX Office. If you want to discuss any of these issues confidentially, you can do so through Student Counseling (254-501-5955) located on the second floor of Warrior Hall (207L).

Sexual violence can occur on our campus because predators often feel emboldened, and victims often feel silenced or shamed. It is incumbent on ALL of us to find ways to actively create environments that tell predators we don't agree with their behaviors and tell survivors we will support them. Your actions matter. Don't be a bystander; be an agent of change. For additional information on campus policy and resources visit the <u>Title IX webpage</u> [https://www.tamuct.edu/compliance/titleix.html].

Behavioral Intervention

Texas A&M University-Central Texas cares about the safety, health, and well-being of its students, faculty, staff, and community. If you are aware of individuals for whom you have a concern, please make a referral to the Behavioral Intervention Team. Referring your concern shows you care. You can complete the referral online

[https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?TAMUCentralTexas&layout_id=2]. Anonymous referrals are accepted. Please see the Behavioral Intervention Team website for more information [https://www.tamuct.edu/bit]. If a person's behavior poses an imminent threat to you or another, contact 911 or A&M-Central Texas University Police at 254-501-5805.

Safezone

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

SAFEZONE. SafeZone provides a public safety application that gives you the ability to call for help with the push of a button. It also provides Texas A&M University-Central Texas the ability to communicate emergency information quickly via push notifications, email, and text messages. All students automatically receive email and text messages via their myCT accounts.

Downloading SafeZone allows access to push notifications and enables you to connect directly for help through the app.

You can download SafeZone from the app store and use your myCT credentials to log in. If you would like more information, you can visit the <u>SafeZone</u> website [www.safezoneapp.com].

To register SafeZone on your phone, please follow these 3 easy steps:

Download the SafeZone App from your phone store using the link below:

<u>iPhone/iPad</u>: [https://apps.apple.com/app/safezone/id533054756]

<u>Android Phone / Tab</u>let

[https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.criticalarc.safezoneapp]

Launch the app and enter your myCT email address (e.g. {name}@tamuct.edu)

Complete your profile and accept the terms of service

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