

Syllabus for
ENG 352 Major Writers: C. S. Lewis and the Inklings
3 Credit hours
Fall 2025

Coronavirus: All faculty members and students are expected to be face-to-face in the classroom except under conditions provided in the ORU Coronavirus Response Plan, which can be found at <https://oru.edu/campus-health/>.

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

A study of major writers in the English language. The focus of the course varies from semester to semester, but each involves an in-depth study of a major author, such as John Milton, C. S. Lewis, D. H. Lawrence, and J. R. R. Tolkien. (May be taken twice for credit.)

This course examines the literature of a group of Oxford authors, called the Inklings, who met together to discuss their works. The authors include C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, and Charles Williams. Various works will be examined from a historical and critical viewpoint with particular emphasis placed on the relationships of the authors' writings. Students respond to readings through class discussion and appropriate writing assignments.

II. STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES FOR THIS COURSE

After successfully completing this course, the student will be able to do the following:

- A. Discourse with facility concerning the lives of C S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, and Charles Williams.
- B. Discuss the themes and characterizations the Inklings use in their works.
- C. List other unofficial members of the Inklings, and discuss their role in the group.
- D. Relate Lewis', Tolkien's, and Williams' role in the Inklings, focusing on their relationships with each other in the group.
- E. Demonstrate the influence of Lewis, Tolkien, and Williams on each other's writings.
- F. Delineate influences on the works of Lewis, Tolkien, and Williams.

III. ASSOCIATED PROGRAMS

This course meets degree completion requirements for the Writing program.

- A. Outcome 1 – Student integrates his or her faith into learning experiences and demonstrates concepts that constitute a Christian Worldview.

- B. Outcome 2 – Student is able to think critically, analyze linguistic structures, synthesize information, and evaluate information critically.
- C. Outcome 3 – Student can write with clarity and skill, can write original works avoiding formulaic writing, and can employ various literary devices.
- D. Outcome 5 – Student can write correct and effective academic papers, evaluating information and using it ethically and appropriately with correct grammar, mechanics, and presentation.
- E. Outcome 7 – Student demonstrates understanding of literary genres and characteristics of literature from various time periods.

IV. TEXTBOOKS AND OTHER LEARNING RESOURCES

Required Textbooks

- Barfield, Owen. *The Silver Trumpet*. 1925.
<http://www.owenbarfield.org/books/silvertrumpet.pdf>
- Lewis, C. S. *The Abolition of Man*. 1947.
<http://www.samizdat.qc.ca/cosmos/philo/AbolitionofMan.pdf>
- Lewis, C. S. *The Great Divorce: A Dream*. 1945.
<https://barnardsvilleumc.files.wordpress.com/2013/07/ebook-lewis-c-s-the-great-divorce.pdf>
- Lewis, C. S. *Out of Silent Planet*. 1938.
<http://burgsbee.tripod.com/eTexts/ C. S. - Out of the Silent Planet - 104 Pages.pdf>
- Lewis, C. S. *Perelandra*. 1943.
<http://www.vb-tech.co.za/ebooks/Lewis%20CS%20-%20Voyage%20to%20Venus%20-%20SF.pdf>
- Lewis, C. S. *That Hideous Strength*. 1945.
http://www.samizdat.qc.ca/arts/lit/PDFs/HideousStrength_CSL.pdf
- Lewis, C. S. *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*. 1952.
http://www.samizdat.qc.ca/arts/lit/PDFs/VoyageoftheDawnTreader_CSL.pdf
- MacDonald, George. "The Day Boy and the Night Girl" ("The Romance of Photogen and Nycteris") 1882.
<http://www.ccel.org/ccel/macdonald/daynight/files/daynight.html>
- MacDonald, George. "The Golden Key." 1867.
<https://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks07/0700571h.html>
- MacDonald, George. *Phantastes*. 1858.
<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/325/325-h/325-h.htm>
- Tolkien, J. R. R. *The Fellowship of the Ring*. 1954-1955.
http://thefreeonlinenovel.com/b/the_fellowship_of_the_ring
- Tolkien, J. R. R. *The Hobbit, or There and Back Again*. 1937.
http://thefreeonlinenovel.com/b/the_hobbit
- Tolkien, J. R. R. "Leaf by Niggle." 1945.
<https://wp.lps.org/mpayant/files/2010/08/LEAF-BY-NIGGLE.pdf>
- Tolkien, J. R. R. "On Fairy Stories." 1947.

- <https://coolcalvary.files.wordpress.com/2018/10/on-fairy-stories1.pdf>
- Tolkien, J. R. R. *Return of the King*. 1954-1955.
http://thefreeonlinenovel.com/b/the_return_of_the_king
- Tolkien, J. R. R. *The Two Towers*. 1954-1955.
http://thefreeonlinenovel.com/b/the_two_towers
- Williams, Charles. *All Hallow's Eve*. 1945
<https://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks04/0400061.txt>
- Williams, Charles. *Descent into Hell*. 1937.
<https://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks03/0300341.txt>
- Zaleski, Philip and Carol. *The Fellowship: The Literary Lives of the Inklings: J.R.R. Tolkien, C. S. Lewis, Owen Barfield, Charles Williams*. Farrar, Strauss and Giroux, 2016. ISBN: 9780374536251.

V. POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

A. Department Policies and Procedures

1. **Class Assignments**

- a. Students need to come to class with the appropriate textbooks, course materials, and other supplies as designated by the professor.
- b. Professors may refuse to accept an assignment if it has inappropriate content, does not meet the assignment's criteria (e.g., not typed, incorrectly documented), is incomplete, is suspected of plagiarism, or is turned in too late.

2. **Tardies**—Tardies are an inconvenience to the other class members and the professor, and they prevent the late student from obtaining maximum value from the class. Therefore, excessive tardies may adversely affect the semester grade. It is to the student's advantage to make sure that the professor is informed immediately following the close of the class that the student was tardy and not absent. It is not the professor's responsibility to stop the class to mark the tardy; the student is the one responsible for conveying that information immediately following that class, not at a later time.

3. **Late Work**

- a. The student is responsible for obtaining class assignments and material covered during an absence, and all work is expected to be completed as scheduled. Late work may result in a lower grade. An absence is not an excuse for turning in late work or for being unprepared with assignments for the class following the absence. Computer or printer malfunction does not constitute an excuse for late work; students should have their work prepared in time to ensure that they can get it proofread, edited, and printed prior to the instructor's due date. These responsibilities assist the student in professional development.
- b. Any test taken late (except if the absence is administratively excused) incurs the ORU late exam fee (\$15), which must be paid before the late test can be taken.

- c. Assignments missed because of administratively excused absences are accepted with no penalty. Generally, assignments missed from an excused absence, such as sickness or family crises, can be made up and the instructor should be notified as soon as possible to reach an agreement on due dates and possible penalties. Each instructor has his or her own late-work policy that is given to students at the beginning of a course, so a teacher may decide that work missed because of an unexcused absence cannot be made up. Instructors use their own judgment in accepting late work resulting from all other absences. In cases where absences can be anticipated, such as for non-University sponsored mission trips, the work should normally be submitted prior to the absence.

4. Attendance: Attendance at each class or laboratory is mandatory at Oral Roberts University. Excessive absences can reduce a student's grade or deny credit for the course.

- a. **Excused and Unexcused Absences**—Class attendance is mandatory, but because unavoidable circumstances can prevent perfect attendance, each student is allowed to miss class the number of times per week a class meets. This allowance is intended for illness, personal business, and emergency. Work missed because of an excused absence (e.g., illness, family emergency) can be made up; however, it is up to the teacher's discretion whether or not to accept work missed due to an unexcused absence (e.g., oversleeping, skipping class). If a student exceeds this number of absences, the student may lose points due to late work or for excessive absences, which may affect the semester grade. Extended illnesses are handled on an individual basis and require verification from a doctor.
- b. **Administratively Excused Absences**—Only absences that are required by approved University activities are given administrative excuses. Students who must miss class for University-sponsored activities must follow these procedures:
 - (1) Inform the professor before the event and make arrangement for the work to be submitted prior to the absence or at a mutually agreed upon deadline.
 - (2) Present an administrative excuse form with appropriate signatures when he or she returns to class. Doctors' or nurses' notes, or letters from groups sponsoring mission trips or activities do not qualify a student for an administratively excused absence.
 - (3) Obtain information covered during an absence. All work must be completed as scheduled.
 - (4) Not commit to class presentation (oral reports, speeches, group presentations, etc.) on a date that the student will be gone. Makeup work is not permitted if the student voluntarily committed to a performance on the date of an administratively excused absence.

5. Plagiarism—Each student attending Oral Roberts University is required to do his or her own academic work and must not inappropriately

collaborate with other students on assignments.

- a. Students must document all sources and ideas that are not their own original information by following correct MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation procedures. Failure to do this produces a plagiarized paper, which results in an F for the paper. Flagrant cheating results in an F for the course.
- b. Students may be asked to submit their assignments to Turnitin.com (an online anti-plagiarism program) or have their work submitted to D2L, which also submits work to Turnitin.com.

6. **Incompletes**—As stated in the University catalog, incompletes are granted only for “good cause,” such as extended hospitalization, long-term illness, or a death in the family. Students must petition for an incomplete using the form available in the School of Liberal Arts Department. Very few incompletes are granted.

7. **Whole Person Assessment**—If this course requires an ePortfolio assignment, it is listed in the next section (“Course Policies and Procedures”) and explained in the WPA Handbook at <http://eportfolio.oru.edu>. Students need to comply as indicated in this syllabus, by the instructor, and in the WPA Handbook.

B. Course Policies and Procedures

1. Evaluation Procedures

Each student must complete the following:

- a. exams required by the instructor
- b. literary analysis and comparison essays
- c. research paper(s), adhering to accepted documentation technique
- d. various classroom assignments as determined by the instructor

Individual papers are evaluated for the following:

- a. reading comprehension (accurate assessment of material and its significance)
- b. focus (consistent main idea; clear sense of purpose)
- c. organization (orderly progression of facts and ideas)
- d. sentences and diction (accurate use of language, sentence variety)
- e. correctness (grammar, punctuation, spelling)
- f. adequate research and appropriate use of documentation

2. The grade in this course is based upon the following items:

- a. Quizzes/Threaded Discussions (10%)
- b. Inklings Paper (3-4 pages, 3-4 sources) (10%)
- c. Lewis or Tolkien Paper (10%) (4-5 pages 4-5 sources)
- d. Lewis and Tolkien Paper (Critical Analysis Paper) (15%) (4-5 pages, 4-5 sources)
- e. Charles Williams Paper (15%) (4-5 pages, 4-5 sources)
- f. Semester Project (20%)
- g. Final Exam (20%)

3. Whole Person Assessment Requirement

There is no WPA requirement for this course.

VI. COURSE CALENDAR

Week(s)

1-2	Background and biographies on the Inklings, as well as influences
3	Other members of the Inklings, both official and honorary
4-9	The role and works of C. S. Lewis
10-13	The role and works of J. R. R. Tolkien
14-15	The role and works of Charles Williams

Primary Program: B.A. Writing
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This course contributes to the University and program outcomes as indicated below:

Significant Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly and includes targeted assessment.

Moderate Contribution – Addresses the outcome directly or indirectly and includes some assessment.

Minimal Contribution – Addresses the outcome indirectly and includes little or no assessment.

OUTCOMES	Significant Contribution	Moderate Contribution	Minimal Contribution
Spiritual Integrity			
Personal Resilience			
ENG 421 Outcome 1 – Student integrates his or her faith into learning experiences and demonstrates concepts that constitute a Christian Worldview.		X	
Intellectual Pursuit			
ENG 421 Outcome 2 – Student is able to think critically, analyze linguistic structures, synthesize information, and evaluate information critically.	X		
ENG 421 Outcome 3 – Student can write with clarity and skill, can write original works avoiding formulaic writing, and can employ various literary devices.	X		
ENG 421 Outcome 5 – Student can write correct and effective academic papers, evaluating information and using it ethically and appropriately with correct grammar, mechanics, and presentation.	X		
ENG 421 Outcome 7 – Student demonstrates understanding of literary genres and characteristics of literature from various time periods.	X		
Global Engagement			
Bold Vision			

(Revised 11/01/21)