

Course Syllabus

THE LORD OF THE RINGS: AN EXPLORATION OF THE FILMS & THEIR LITERARY INFLUENCES

The Lord of the Rings is one of the most popular stories in the modern world. In this course, you will study the movie versions of J.R.R. Tolkien's novel and learn about the process of converting literature to film. You will explore fantasy literature as a genre and critique the three Lord of the Rings films.

Required Materials

You will be required to own or have access to the standard (non-extended) versions of the three Lord of the Rings films:

- The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring
- The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers
- The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King

If you do not already have access to these movies, you may consider other sources such as your local library.

Note: *Timestamps referenced throughout the course apply to standard editions of the applicable film and may not align with any extended versions.*

Unit 1: The Man behind the Movie

Learning Objectives

- Discuss the cultural impact of *The Lord of the Rings*.
- Report on J.R.R. Tolkien, the author of the book.
- Discuss the writing of *The Hobbit*, the prequel to *The Lord of the Rings*.
- Give an overview of the basic story of *The Hobbit* and understand its connection with *The Lord of the Rings*.
- Outline the first part of *The Fellowship of the Ring*.
- Recount details about the characters in *The Fellowship of the Ring*.

UNIT 1 Assignments

Assignment	Type	Score
The Man behind the Movie: Unit Text Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit One Writing Assignment	Homework	15 points
Unit 1 Quiz – The Man behind the Movie	Quiz	15 points

Unit 2: The Languages of *The Lord of the Rings*

Learning Objectives

- Discuss Tolkien’s career as a philologist.
- Develop new vocabulary related to the study of language.
- Explore the evolution of the English language.
- Analyze how the creation of the Elvish language impacted the creation of Middle Earth.
- Outline the background of *The Lord of the Rings* as it appears in the second part of *The Fellowship of the Rings*.

UNIT 2 Assignments

Assignment	Type	Score
The Languages of <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> : Unit Text Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit Two Writing Assignment	Homework	15 points
Unit 2 Quiz – The Languages of <i>The Lord of the Rings</i>	Quiz	15 points

Unit 3: The Influence of the Arthurian Tales

Learning Objectives

- Retell the basic story of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table.
- Develop a new vocabulary related to the study of King Arthur and the period in which the stories were set.
- Discuss Tolkien's scholarship as it relates to the stories of King Arthur and Sir Gawain and the Green Knight.
- Explore the story of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*.
- Describe how the concepts in the stories of King Arthur impacted the creation of *The Lord of the Rings*.

UNIT 3 Assignments

Assignment	Type	Score
The Influence of the Arthurian Tales: Unit Text Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit Three Writing Assignment	Homework	15 points
Unit 3 Quiz – The Influence of the Arthurian Tales	Quiz	15 points

Unit 4: Converting a Classic to a Film

Learning Objectives

- Describe the process of converting a book to a film.
- Explore the advantages of presenting a classic book as a film.
- Outline the advantages of reading the story in book form.
- Explain how the movie changed some elements of this portion of *The Two Towers*.

UNIT 4 Assignments

Assignment	Type	Score
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Converting a Classic to a Film: Unit Text Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit Four Writing Assignment	Homework	15 points
Unit 4 Quiz – Converting a Classic to a Film	Quiz	15 points

The Lord of the Rings Midterm Exam

Learning Objectives

- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- Take a course exam based on material from the first four units in this course (Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

MIDTERM Assignments

Assignment	Type	Score
<i>The Lord of the Rings</i> Midterm Exam	Exam	50 points
Midterm Discussion Assignment	Discussion	5 points

Unit 5: The Heroic Culture of *The Lord of the Rings*

Learning Objectives

- Describe the heroic feudal culture of comitatus.
- Explore how this heroic concept is developed in *The Lord of the Rings*.
- Define the concept of the epic hero.
- Discuss the concept of the epic hero as portrayed in *The Lord of the Rings*.
- Analyze how Tolkien used *The Lord of the Rings* to express his own views on conservation and ecology.
- Discuss character development in *The Two Towers*.

UNIT 5 Assignments

Assignment	Type	Score
The Heroic Culture of <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> : Unit Text Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit Five Writing Assignment	Homework	15 points
Unit 5 Quiz – The Heroic Culture of <i>The Lord of the Rings</i>	Quiz	15 points

Unit 6: Beowulf, the Monsters, & *The Lord of the Rings*

Learning Objectives

- Discuss the background of the epic poem *Beowulf*.
- Describe features of Old English poetry.
- Outline the story of *Beowulf* and its view of heroism.
- Explain Tolkien's view of the value of monsters in fantasy literature.
- Analyze how Tolkien's scholarship concerning Beowulf affected the writing of *The Lord of the Rings*.

UNIT 6 Assignments

Assignment	Type	Score
<i>Beowulf</i> , the Monsters, and <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> : Unit Text Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit Six Writing Assignment	Homework	15 points
Unit 6 Quiz – <i>Beowulf</i> , the Monsters, and <i>The Lord of the Rings</i>	Quiz	15 points

Unit 7: Mythopoeia: The Making of Fantasy Worlds

Learning Objectives

- Describe some of the genres of literature.
- Discuss fantasy literature and its relation to science fiction.
- Define mythopoeia.
- Discuss Tolkien's famous essay "On Fairy Stories" and the advantages of fantasy that Tolkien described in that essay.
- Outline the background material of the first half of *The Return of the King*.

UNIT 7 Assignments

Assignment	Type	Score
Mythopoeia: The Making of Fantasy Worlds: Unit Text Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit Seven Writing Assignment	Homework	15 points
Unit 7 Quiz – Mythopoeia: The Making of Fantasy Worlds	Quiz	15 points

Unit 8: Watch the second half of The Return of the King

Learning Objectives

- Describe the themes and motifs in the movie.
- Discuss conflict in a story and how this adds interest to the tale.
- Define the differences between dynamic and static characters.
- Compare the differences between the book and movie versions of *The Return of the King*.
- Discuss more about the basic elements of plot development.
- Outline the development of all the major characters in the story and where the story took these characters even after the film was finished.

UNIT 8 Assignments

Assignment	Type	Score
Watch the second half of The Return of the King: Unit Text Questions	Homework	10 points
Unit Eight Writing Assignment	Homework	15 points
Unit 8 Quiz – Watch the second half of The Return of the King	Quiz	15 points

The Lord of the Rings Final Exam

Learning Objectives

- Review information acquired and mastered from this course up to this point.
- Take a course exam based on material from units five to eight in this course – the last four units.

(Note: You will be able to open this exam only one time.)

FINAL Assignments

Assignment	Type	Score
<i>The Lord of the Rings</i> Final Exam	Exam	50 points
Class Reflection Discussion Assignment	Discussion	10 points