

RICE UNIVERSITY

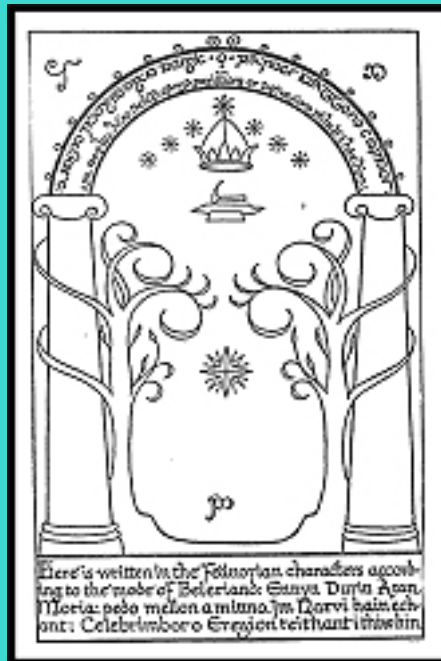
SPRING, 2006

ENGLISH/MEDIEVAL STUDIES 318: J. R. R. TOLKIEN

10:50-12:05 TTH

Dr. Jane Chance

J.R.R. Tolkien is now recognized as one of the greatest writers of the twentieth century for his masterpiece, *The Lord of the Rings* (written during a period from the end of the thirties to the early fifties). As an Oxford Professor and eminent medievalist, he wrote out of what he knew about Old English, Old Norse, and Middle English literature. As a contemporary of T.S. Eliot, George Orwell, Graham Greene, Evelyn Waugh, and other modernists, he wrote out of what he had lived through. The course will trace the tension between the exile--the *wraecca*--and the community, otherness and heroism, identity and marginalization, revenge and forgiveness.



To locate *The Lord of the Rings* within a broader historical and literary context, we will trace the development of Tolkien's art, beginning with *The Silmarillion* and *The Hobbit* and following up with *The Lord of the Rings* as a mythology for England. Along the way we will investigate his works on fantasy and mythmaking, such as “Mythopoiea,” “Leaf by Niggle,” and “On Fairy-Stories.” Clearly evident will be his interest in medievalness—especially the Old English *Beowulf* and the Finnish *Kalevala*. Cassettes and films of and about Tolkien and his writings will supplement readings and discussions.

Requirements: Class attendance is expected; your grade will be based on class participation/quizzes; 2 papers (5-7 pages each); a midterm and a final examination.

Texts (in order of reading):

Readings (both required and recommended texts) will also be placed on reserve (see below). Prices are those at amazon.com. Please note that ISBN numbers are important in order to have a text with page numbers cited in class.

J. R. R. Tolkien, *Letters*, ed. Humphrey Carpenter (Houghton Mifflin, 2000), pb ISBN 0618056998 \$12.00

_____, *Tolkien Reader*, 2nd ed. (Ballantine, 1989), pb PR 6039.032T6 1966 ISBN 0345345061 \$6.99

_____, *The Book of Lost Tales, Part One*, edited Christopher Tolkien (Del Rey, 1992), pp. 13-32. PR6039.O32 1984 v. 2 ISBN 0345375211 \$7.50

_____, *The Book of Lost Tales, Part Two*, edited Christopher Tolkien (Del Rey, 1992), pp. 312-334. PR6039.O32 B6 1983 ISBN 034537522x \$6.99

_____, *The Silmarillion* (Houghton Mifflin, Manner Books, 2001), 2nd ed., pb. PR 6039 .O32 S5 1977 0618126988 \$11.20

Turgon (David Smith), ed. *The Tolkien Fan's Medieval Reader* (Cold Spring Books, 2004) 1593600119 On Order at Fondren

J. R. R. Tolkien, *The Hobbit*, rev. ed. (Houghton Mifflin, 1937; rpt. 1999), Pb 0-618-00221-9 \$9.60

_____, *The Lord of the Rings*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, June 1999. Note: Get the one vol. edition with 1188 pp. PR6039.O32 L6 2001 ISBN 0395974682 \$24.50 pn.

_____, *Unfinished Tales* (Ballantine, 1988), pb ISBN 0-345-35711-6 (On Reserve, PR 6039 O32U5 1980)

Recommended:

Foster, Richard, *The Complete Guide to Middle-earth: From the Hobbit to the Silmarillion* (Ballantine), pb. PR6039.O32 Z49 1993 0-345-449-762

Hammond, Wayne G., and Christina Scull, ed. *J. R. R. Tolkien: Artist and Illustrator* (Houghton Mifflin, 1997, rpt. 2000), pb. NG797.T64 H36 1995 0618083618 \$17.50

Jackson, Peter, dir. *The Lord of the Rings, Special Extended Version DVDs*. New Line Cinema, 2002-4.

Tolkien, J.R.R., *The Monsters and the Critics and Other Essays*, Acacia Press, 1997, pb. 0-261-10263-X \$22.95

Syllabus:

Introduction: Tolkien's Life and Times

Week 1

Jan. 12 Thurs.

Read Letters #43, 163, 199, 213

1892-1911 The early years: South Africa, Mabel Tolkien, King Edward's School,
Father Francis Morgan, Edith Bratt
1911-1920 Oxford University, Edith Bratt, WWI, the germ of "The Silmarillion"
1920-25 Leeds University
1925-1959 Oxford University: C.S. Lewis, the Inklings, and the Tolkien Family
1917ff The "Lost Tales"
1929-37 *The Hobbit*
1937-1954 *The Lord of the Rings*
1959-73 Retirement and the 'Silmarillion'

Week 2

Jan. 17 Tues. Tolkien on Tolkien

Read Tolkien, "Leaf by Niggle" (1949?) (in the *Reader*)

I. A Mythology for England: The Silmarillion

Jan. 19 Thurs. Tolkien and Faërie: The Quest for Other Worlds

Read Tolkien, "On Fairy-Stories" (1939?) (in the *Reader*), including "Mythopoeia,"
from *Tree and Leaf, Including the Poem Mythopoeia* (1964), pp. 1-8, 97-101 (Hand-
out) PN3437 .T6 1965

Week 3

Jan. 24 Tues. The Story of Early England and Aelfwine/Eriol the Mariner: "The Cottage of Lost Play" (1917) in *The Book of Lost Tales I*, pp. 1-39; and "Aelfwine of England"(1920) in "The History of Eriol, or Aelfwine and the End of the Tales," in *The Book of Lost Tales 2*, pp. 318-40

Jan. 26 Thurs. The Myth of Creation and the Fall of Valar and Maiar

Read *Silmarillion*, "Ainulindäle," pp. 15-22; "Valaquenta," pp. 25-32
Read Tolkien, Letters #131, 165, 186, 297

Week 4

Jan. 31 Tues. Feänor and the Fall of the Noldor

Read *Silmarillion*, "Quenta Silmarillion, The History of the Silmarils," pp. 35-90
Read Tolkien, Letters #178, 180, 181, 211, 247

Feb. 2 Thurs. The Tale of Beren and Lúthien; The Tale of Turambar

Read *Silmarillion*, pp. 162-87; 198-224

Week 5

Feb. 7 Tues. The Finnish Tale of Kullervo ; The Voyage of Eärendel

Read *Kalevala: Tale of Kullervo*, in *The Tolkien Fan's Medieval Reader*, pp.337-390

Read *Silmarillion*, “Of the Voyage of Eärendel and the War of Wrath,” pp. 246-55

II. Tolkien as Exile: “I Am in Fact a Hobbit”

Feb. 9 Thurs. The Hero Beowulf as Tolkien

Read Beowulf in *The Tolkien Fan’s Medieval Reader*, pp. 16-61

Recommended: Tolkien, “Beowulf: The Monsters and the Critics” in *The Monsters and the Critics and Other Essays*, pp. 5-48

Feb. 10 9 a.m. Paper #1 Due

Week 6

Feb. 14 Tues. The Anglo-Saxon Origin of the Name “Hobbit” and the Structure of the Children’s Story

Read Tolkien, Letter #257

Tolkien, *The Hobbit*, Chapters 1-7

Feb. 16 Thurs. The Heroism of Bilbo Baggins

Tolkien, *The Hobbit*, Chapters 8-14

Week 7

Feb. 21 Tues. “There and Back Again”

Read Tolkien, *The Hobbit*, Chapters 15-19

Feb. 23 Thurs. Exile and Heroism: Tolkien’s Recording of the Drama “Homecoming of Beorthnoth Beorthelm’s Son”

Read *The Battle of Maldon* in *The Tolkien Fan’s Medieval Reader*, pp.69-76

Read Tolkien, “Homecoming of Beorthnoth Beorthelm’s Son” and “Of ermod” (in the *Tolkien Reader*, pp. 3-27)

Week 8

Feb. 26 Sun. Showing of Vincent Ward’s *The Navigator: A Medieval Odyssey*

Media Center, 3 p.m.

Feb. 28 Tues. (Cont.) Tolkien as Exile

Film: *Tolkien Remembered*

Mar. 2 Thurs Tolkien’s Artwork (Slide Lecture)

Recommended: Hammond and Scull, ed. *Tolkien as Artist and Illustrator*, pp. 91-151

Mar. 3 Fri. @ 9 am Midterm Examination (Take Home Closed Book/Notes: Due by 9 AM Fri.)

III. *The Lord of the Rings*

Week 9

Mar. 5 Sun. See Peter Jackson's "*Fellowship of the Ring*"

Mar. 7 Tues. The Composition of *LOTR* and the Issue of Allegory

Read Tolkien's "Foreword" and *Fellowship*, Chap. 1

Letters #142, 215, 328; 129, 181, 203

Mar. 9 Thurs. *The Hobbit and the Fellowship*

Read Tolkien, *Fellowship of the Ring*, Book 1

Mar. 13-17 Midterm Break

Week 10

Mar. 21 Tues. *The Hobbit in the LOTR: The Development of Frodo as Hero*

Read Tolkien, *Fellowship of the Ring*, Books 1-2

Read Tolkien, Letters #191, 192, 246

Mar. 23 Thurs. (Cont.) *Frodo's Descent into Moria: Dwarf Past History*

Week 11

Mar. 26(Sun.) See Peter Jackson's *Two Towers*

Mar. 28 Tues. *Religiosity and the Valar: The Elves, Galadriel*

Elven Songs Sung by Tolkien (from *The Road Goes Ever On*) (Hand-out)

Read Tolkien, *Fellowship of the Ring*, Book 2 (cont.)

Read "The History of Galadriel and Celeborn" in *Unfinished Tales*, pp. 239-80

Mar. 30 Thurs. *Saruman and his Adversaries: The Ents, the Lost Entwives, and the Entmoot*

Tolkien's Reading of the Coming of the Ents (cassette)

Read *The Two Towers*, Book 3

Week 12

April 4 Tues. *Saruman and Gandalf: Two Wizards*

Read "Palantír" and "The Istari" in *Unfinished Tales*, pp. 405-33

Tolkien, Letter #246

April 6 Thurs. Spring Holiday

Week 13

April 11 Tues. *Gollum/Smeagol: Hobbit Service to the Master*

Read *The Two Towers*, Book 4

April 13 Thurs. Heroic Servant Samwise

End of Book 4 and Beginning of *Return of the King*, Book 5

April 14 Fri @ 9am Paper #2 Due

Week 14

April 16 (Sun.): See Peter Jackson's *Return of the King*

April 18 Tues. Male Society and Women: Éowyn and Arwen

April 20 Thurs. Aragorn: The King as Healer

Read *Return of the King*, Book 6

Week 15

April 25 Tues. The Return, "Home Again": Samwise Gamgee

April 27 Thurs. Wrap-Up

April 28 Fri @ 9 a.m. Second Exam Due

At Fondren Library (in addition to works listed above):

J.R.R. Tolkien, *Father Christmas Letters* PR6039.O32F38 1991

_____, *The Old English Exodus* PR1609.A3T6 1981

_____, *Pictures* N6797.T64 A4 1992

_____, *The History of Middle-earth* (other vols.):

Lays of Beleriand PR6039.O32 L3 1985

Lost Road and Other Writings PR6039.O32 L64 198

Morgoth's Ring: The Later Silmarillion, Part 1 PR6039.O32 M67 1933b

Peoples of Middle-earth PR6039.O32 P41996

Return of the Shadow PR6039.O32 L6374 1

Sauron Defeated: The End of the Third Age PR6039.O32 L63743 1992b

The Shaping of Middle-earth PR6039.O32 S461986b

Treason of Isengard PR6039.O32 L6375 1

War of the Ring PR6039.O32L6377 1990b

Beard, Henry N., and Douglas C. Kenney, *Bored of the Rings: A Parody of J. R. Tolkien's Lord of the Rings* (Harvard Lampoon/NAL) PS3552.E16 B 6

Carpenter, Humphrey, *Tolkien: A Biography* PR6039.O32 Z621977

Chance, Jane, *Tolkien's Art: A Mythology for England*, 1979; rev. ed. (University of Kentucky Press, 2001).

_____, *The Lord of the Rings: The Mythology of Power*, 1992; rev. ed. (University of Kentucky Press, 2001).

_____, ed. *Tolkien the Medievalist* (Routledge, 2003)

_____, ed. *Tolkien and the Invention of Myth: A Reader* (University of Kentucky Press, 2004).

- _____, with Alfred Siewers, Jr., ed. *Tolkien's Modern Middle Ages* (Pgrave-Macmillan, 2005).
- Croft, Janet, ed. *Tolkien on Film* (Mythopoeic Press, 2004).
- _____. *War and the Works of J.R.R. Tolkien* (Contributions to the Study of Science Fiction and Fantasy) (Praeger, 2004).
- Duriez, Colin, *The J.R.R.Tolkien Handbook: A Comprehensive Guide to his Life, Writings, and the World of Middle-earth* PR6039.032 Z639 1992
- Flieger, Verlyn, *Splintered Light* PR6039.O32 S5325 1983
- Fonstad, Karen Wynn, *The Atlas of Middle-earth* (Houghton Mifflin) G3122.M5 F6 1991
- Garth, John. *Tolkien and the Great War*. Houghton Mifflin
- Goodknight, Glen, ed. *Proceedings of the J. R. R. Tolkien Centenary Conference, 1992* PR6039.O32 Z6641995
- Gordon, R., *Anglo-Saxon Poetry* PR1508.G65
- Green, William, *The Hobbit: A Journey into Maturity* PR6039.032 Z646 1995
- Helm, Randel, *Tolkien's World* PR6039.O32 Z66
- Isaacs, Neil, and Rose Zimbardo, ed. *Tolkien: New Critical Perspectives* (Univ. Kentucky Press, 1981) PR6039.O32 Z85
- Mythlore: A Journal of J. R. R. Tolkien, C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, and the Genres of Myth and Fantasy Studies*, 1969--
- Shippey, T.A., *The Road to Middle-Earth* (Macmillan, Ltd., 1992) PR6039.O32 Z8241983
- Strachey, Barbara, *Journeys of Frodo: An Atlas* G3122.M5 S7 1992
- Swann, Donald, *The Road Goes Ever On* M1621.4 .S93
- Tolkien, John and Priscilla, *The Tolkien Family Album* PR6039.O32 Z845 1992
- Tolkien Studies: An Annual Scholarly Review*, 2004--
- Unwin, Rayner, *The Making of the Lord of the Rings* PR6039.O32 Z6386 1992
- Tolkien Remembered* (videorecording) PR6039.032 Z855 1993
- Tyler, J.E.A., *The Tolkien Companion* PR6039 .O32 Z49
- West, Richard, *Tolkien Criticism: An Annotated Checklist*, 2nd ed. (Kent State, 1981) Z8883 .4S.W45 1981

Paper Topics:

Paper #1: On *The Silmarillion* or *The Hobbit* (let me know your topic).

Paper #2: On *The Lord of the Rings* or on Jackson's *Lord of the Rings* and Tolkien's epic. Choose your own topic (but let me know).

Conferences: Office Hours 4-5 TTH and by appointment

Office: 235 Herring Hall

Office Phone: 713-348-2625

Department Phone (for messages): 713-348-4840

Disability Notice:

1. Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities will need to contact Disability Support Services in the Ley Student Center.
2. Any student with a disability requiring accommodations in this course is encouraged to contact me after class or during office hours. Additionally, students will need to contact Disability Support Services in the Ley Student Center.
3. If you have a documented disability that will impact your work in this class, please contact me to discuss your needs. Additionally, you will need to register with the Disability Support Services Office in the Ley Student Center.

