

Tales from Tolkien: A Study of *The Lord of the Rings* Trilogy

Grades:	8th – 12th
Prerequisites:	This class requires a high degree of reading, critical thinking, and writing abilities.
Day(s) of Week:	Tuesday
Time of Class:	3:00 – 4:30 pm ET
Length of Class:	10 weeks
Semester:	Spring
Tuition:	\$250.00
High School Credit:	.5-year Literature OR Elective (HONORS for 9th or 10th graders)

Class Dates:

Week 1: Week of March 28

Week 2: Week of April 4

Week 3: Week of April 11

No classes: Week of April 18 – 22 (Spring Break: Passover and Easter)

Week 4: Week of April 25

No classes: Week of May 2 – 6 (Eid Al Fitr)

Week 5: Week of May 9

Week 6: Week of May 16

Week 7: Week of May 23

Week 8: Week of May 30

Week 9: Week of June 6

Week 10: Week of June 13

Make Up Week: Week of June 20

Instructor's Name:	Jonathan Meola
Instructor's Email:	jonathan@opententacademy.com
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Description of Class:

Bring the movies to life! Books allow our imagination to flourish and details to be absorbed ... while learning. The immensely intelligent J.R.R. Tolkien is famous for the imaginative worlds of Middle-earth and unique concept of mythopoeia. We can understand why his epic trilogy; *The Lord of the Rings* is so vastly popular that it has reached cult status. Today, Tolkien's fiction is not only a literary classic, but it's also instrumental to the growth and popularity of the genre of modern fantasy. Students in this course will have the opportunity to read Tolkien's work for pleasure, as well as discover the historical, mythological and literary backgrounds of his tales. Students will come away with a new appreciation and understanding of Tolkien's epic stories.

Class Approach:

Each day, we will start with a timed creative opener. This allows students to clear their minds and focus on the class. We will then cover student questions from the reading or homework assignments. Discussion is next of the assigned chapters and readings for the week, including a lecture on the topics. Questions and discussion are encouraged. There will be weekly projects and written assignments, 3 journal assignments, a creative project, as well as a midterm and final paper.

Goals:

1. Acquire a familial and critical knowledge of *The Lord of The Rings* as well as the Medieval literature that informs it.
2. Acquire knowledge of the historical and cultural background which informs *The Lord of The Rings*.
3. Read and discuss *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy for pleasure and for its insight into the human condition.
4. Demonstrate the skills associated with the practice of literary criticism, including writing and formatting, research skills, and methods of analysis.

Textbook:

J.R.R. Tolkien

Any edition is absolutely fine.

- *The Hobbit*
- *The Fellowship of the Ring*

- *The Two Towers*
- *A Return of the King*

**** NOTE: It is strongly encouraged for your child to PRE-READ these novels prior to the class beginning.**

Foster, Robert *Tolkien's World from A to Z: The Complete Guide to Middle Earth*

https://www.amazon.com/Tolkiens-World-Complete-Guide-Middle-Earth/dp/0345449762/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1506374939&sr=8-1&keywords=a+complete+guide+to+middle+earth

In addition, there will also be supplemental readings supplied by the instructor via PDF on the LMS.

Additional Supplies/Resources Needed:

- Headset and microphone, as this class requires discussion
- Microsoft Word
- Some assignments will have options for projects that would be easier photographed and sent in. For those access to a smartphone may be easiest.
- Google Docs is great resource in sending writing assignments and papers.

Requirements:

I expect all assigned reading to be done prior to class. Come to class prepared to discuss what you've read with your teacher and classmates.

Weekly Homework:

Homework and reading will be about four hours a week, depending on the assigned reading.

Homework Policy:

All weekly assignments are due at the end of the week on Wednesday at midnight. Papers will be due on their due date. I will allow one late homework assignment without penalty, after that 5% will be taken off the total grade for each day late. I understand that sometimes life gets in the way, and I am willing to be flexible if you communicate with me ahead of time. If there are extenuating circumstances and your homework is going to be late, contact me at least 24 hours before it is due, and we will work something out.

Additional Policies:

This is a discussion-based class. I expect you to come prepared, ask questions, participate in the class, and be respectful towards your fellow students. Sometimes the material may be hard; I understand that. I am always available by email and often by phone or text. Make an appointment to meet with me or simply send an email at any time if you have questions or are confused. We will figure it out together, but I need to know you're having trouble. I am available via Skype and Google Hangout!

Evaluation:

Attendance/Participation:	10% of Grade
Weekly discussion:	15% of Grade
Weekly assignments:	15% of Grade
Creative & Journal project:	15% of Grade
Midterm paper:	20 % of Grade
Final paper:	25 % of Grade

****NOTE:** If you are planning on viewing the recordings of this class, please contact the instructor prior to registration so she can let you know how you can earn this credit.

Grading Scale:

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

Anticipated Weekly Course Schedule:

Winter 2019

Week	Topic
Week 1	Introduction/Syllabus Author Profile The Hobbit, Chapters 1-5
Week 2	The Hobbit, Chapters 6-14
Week 3	The Hobbit, Chapters 15-19 Journal Project 1
Week 4	The Fellowship of the Ring, Prologue-11.1

Week	Topic
Week 5	The Fellowship of the Ring, 11.2-end Midterm Paper Due
Week 6	The Two Towers, III.1-11 Journal Project 2
Week 7	The Two Towers, IV.1-16
Week 8	The Return of the King, V.1-10 Creative Project Due
Week 9	The Return of the King, V2.4-9 Journal Project 3
Week 10	Wrap up of Class Final paper due