ENGLISH 531.01W SYLLABUS: SPRING 2020
January 30-May 8, 2020

Flex Term FAQ: https://new.tamuc.edu/flex/

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

Instructor: Dr. Robin Anne Reid
Office Location: David Talbot Hall of Languages, 125
Office Hours: Online: MWF 9:00-11:30 AM; T 2:00-3:00
                   Face/Face: Wed: 3:00-5:00 PM & by appointment
                   Time Zone: Central United States
Email: robin.reid@tamuc.edu

Communication Response Time

Online office hours are when I am online to answer questions posted in the online course shell or sent to me by email *before* the office hours. Emails that arrive after will be answered within 24 hours. Weekend emails will be answered within 24-48 hours. No assignments will be accepted by email.

Face/face office hours are when I am in my office on campus available to meet on a drop-in basis. If you are not able to be on campus during those hours, please email me at least 48 hours in advance to set up a meeting. I am almost always available to drive to campus on Friday afternoons, and can do so on some Tuesday or Thursday afternoon meetings, depending on other commitments. My commute is approximately half an hour, and we will need to see if we can find a time we can both meet on campus. My preferred method of communication is email.

COURSE INFORMATION

Required Textbooks (2)

The two required textbooks can be purchased or rented from our campus bookstore which allows students to order online as well as buying books on campus. Other companies, including Amazon, have new and used editions on sale, and rental or e-books may be used.

The Lord of the Rings, J. R. R. Tolkien. Paperback, Houghton Mifflin, 2005. ISBN-10: 0-618-64015-0. ISBN-13: 978-0-618-64015-7.

NOTE: There are many editions of the novel in print. I ordered this one-volume version because it is a paperback that contains the text of the 50th anniversary version with corrections made to earlier errors. Students may use any edition of the novel they wish, including an e-version.

The Art of the Lord of the Rings by J. R. R. Tolkien, eds. Christina Scull and Wayne Hammond. Hardback, Houghton Mifflin, 2015. ISBN-10: 0-544-63634-1. ISBN-13: 978-0-544-63634-7.

This edition is the only one of this publication: it contains full-color reproductions of Tolkien's original art. Students may be able to find used copies via online sellers.

Recommended

MLA Handbook, 8th ed. Modern Language Association. ISBN 10: 1-60329-262-4; ISBN-13: 978-1-60329-262-7.

Course Description

ENG 531 Major Figures and Movements in British Literature.
A thorough study of the age, the work, and the influence of a major British literary figure; or, treatment of two or three important figures who have some close relationship to one another; or, a thorough study of a specific literary movement or theoretical approach to an author or group of authors. May be repeated for credit when the emphasis changes.

Spring 2020 Emphasis: Digital Tolkien
The focus of our class this semester is on a major British literary figure (J. R. R. Tolkien) and on a specific methodological approach (using digital tools) in order to analyze some aspect of J. R. R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*, including its reception. I do not assume students are familiar with Tolkien's work or with digital humanities methodologies.

Class activities will be reading the novel along with a study of how Tolkien's art and illustrations shaped his fiction, participating in discussions with various Tolkien scholars who have created digital tools relating to Tolkien's legendarium and its reception, practicing working with the tools, and developing a presentation-length essay using one of the tools. A class bibliography and a brainstorming journal will complement the discussions and essay assignments.

Student Learning Outcomes

By the end of the class, students should be able to:

1. Engage in informed dialogue about the assigned readings with classmates, instructor, and Tolkienists. Assessed by Unit I online discussions.
2. Describe what they have learned by engaging in practice searches in online digital humanities tools. Assessed by Unit II online discussions.
3. Apply what they have learned about at least one digital tool to develop evidence to use in their final essay. Assessed by the final draft of the essay.
4. Brainstorm, evaluate, and develop ideas for an academic essay. Assessed by the journal.
5. Use selected databases (Academic Search Complete and the MLA International Bibliography) to find peer-reviewed articles, academic monographs, and collections on specific topics in Tolkien scholarship. Assessed by entries submitted for the class bibliography.
6. Write multiple drafts marked by increasing clarity and understanding, showing they can use writing as a tool of discovery, creativity, and analytical thinking. Assessed by the early and final essay drafts.
7. Create citations that follow the MLA 8th guidelines. Assessed by the final paper and entries submitted for the class bibliography.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Student Responsibilities

Student success in English 531 requires:

- Completing assigned reading on time.
- Scheduling regular practice sessions to learn how to use assigned online digital humanities tools.
- Engaging in a process of active reading, note-taking, and re-reading.
- Engaging in a process of revision, both global (deleting text, creating new text, restructuring drafts) and surface (editing and proofreading) informed by instructor feedback.
- Checking the class blog at least twice a week to participate in online discussion including replying to classmates.
- Logging into the course shell once or twice a week to check for announcements and post questions if further information on assignments is needed.
- Downloading graded work in a timely fashion to use feedback for required revisions or in preparing later assignments.

Minimum Required Technical Skills

Students should be able to:

- Save documents in .doc, .docx, or in .rtf formats if using other word processing programs than Microsoft Word.
- Edit word processing program settings to change fonts, line spacing, paragraph indentation, and other formatting elements in documents.
- Access and download class handouts from D2L Brightspace course shell.
- Navigate D2L Brightspace to learn due dates and end dates, to download and open assignment handouts, grading rubrics, and drafts with feedback in Word markup, and to track class progress and final grades.
- Upload writing assignments in the assigned format to the correct assignment folders.
- Take and share screenshots to document problems experienced in accessing D2L Brightspace.
- Access and post in the class blog: https://tolkien-on-the-web.dreamwidth.org/.
- Access and work with free online digital humanities tools.

Instructional Methods

This is a fully online course led by the instructor with set due dates for all assignments. Besides working in D2L, students will also be expected to post twice weekly on an online blog to discuss readings and digital tools with classmates and digital Tolkienists. All other assignments (brainstorming journal, MLA bibliographic entries, and essay drafts) will be submitted to the assignment folders in D2L.

The assignment handouts found in the modules contain information on due dates, objectives, resources, required format and content, as well as grading rubrics. Those handouts should be downloaded and read carefully.

The class incorporates a writing process that begins with informal discovery writing and moves to a formal essay for the final project. Discovery writing (online discussions, brainstorming journals, and early drafts) are graded on effort and learning while the bibliography entries and final draft are graded on the quality of work. This method depends on students using instructor feedback for revision throughout the semester.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

If you have any questions or are having difficulties with the course material, please contact me by email immediately. You may also meet with

me during my f/f office hours or set up an appointment by email (please give me 48 hours notice).

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulty with any part of D2L Brightspace, please contact Brightspace Technical Support at 1-877-325-7778. Other support options can be found here:

https://community.brightspace.com/support/s/contactsupport

GRADING

Final grades in this course will be based on the following scale:

A = 90%-100%	D = 60%-69%
B = 80%-89%	F = 59% or Below
C = 70%-79%	

Assessments

Class Bibliography: **10%**

Each student submits ten citations on an assigned topic in MLA 8th style. The final product is a class bibliography, but students are graded on their individual work. Student Learning Outcome #5.

Brainstorming Journal: **20%**

The brainstorming journal consists of ten entries organized around weekly reading in Unit I (4 entries), the digital tool practice sessions in Unit II (4 entries), and then the concluding self-assessments in Unit III (2 entries). Student Learning Outcomes #3, #4.

Weekly Online Discussions: **30%**

Tolkien on the Web (Dreamwidth):
https://tolkien-on-the-web.dreamwidth.org/

Moving the class discussions from D2L to a blog hosted on Dreamwidth (which uses the term "journal" instead of "blog") allows the class a chance to discuss Tolkien and digital tools with Tolkien scholars who have created the tools and used them in their work on Tolkien.

Students should post twice during the week with the communal goal of sharing ideas, learning from others, and developing questions that could drive their presentations. Student Learning Outcome #1, 2.

Final Essay: **40%**
   Early Draft 10%
   Final Draft 30%

The final project for the class will be using one of the digital tools to develop evidence for a presentation-length (10 pages DS, not counting Works Cited page) academic essay which will grow out of discussions and journal entries over the semester. Students will develop their topic with instructor feedback and approval in their journals.

Student Learning Outcomes #3, #6.

COURSE CALENDAR
Jan. 30 - May 8

The schedule is a guide. Circumstances and events, such as student progress, may make it necessary for the instructor to modify the schedule or other parts of the syllabus during the semester. Any changes made will be announced in advance.

Due Dates: Fridays 11:30 PM

End Dates: Sundays, 11:30 PM (an automatic extension)

Opening Week: Introduction to Class

January 30-31 **Read:** Verlyn Flieger, "The Arch and the Keystone"
              Post: Introduction to Class

Optional Pizza Party (in Commerce): Time TBD by class Doodle

Four Weeks Unit I: Reading Flieger, LOTR, Art of LOTR

Feb. 3-7   **Read:** *The Fellowship of the Ring; Art* pp. 7-97
              Post: Online Discussion

Feb. 10-13   **Read:** *The Two Towers; Art,* pp. 98-139
              Post: Online Discussion
Feb. 17-21   **Read:** *The Return of the King; Art*, pp. 140-237
              Post: Online Discussion

Feb. 24-28   **Turn in:** MLA entries (4)
              Turn in: Brainstorming Journal Part 1 (4 entries)

Four Weeks Unit II: Digital Tolkien Practice

Mar. 2-6   **Practice:** The Tolkien Art Index & LRC: LR Citations by
Erik Mueller-Harder
Post: Online Discussion

Mar. 9-13   Spring Break

Mar. 16-20   **Practice:** Digital Tolkien by James Tauber
Post: Online Discussion

Mar. 23-27   **Practice:** The J.R.R. Tolkien Fandom Oral History
Collection, by William Fliss
Post: Online Discussion

Mar. 30-Apr. 3 **Practice:** LotR Project by Emil Johansson
Practice: Tolkien Concordance by Laurie Frances
(Sparrow) Alden
Post: Online Discussion
Turn in: MLA entries (3)
Turn in: Brainstorming Journal Part II due (4 entries)

Five Weeks Unit III: Final Projects

Apr. 6-10   Work on early draft

Apr. 13-17   **Turn in:** Early draft "Digital Tolkien"
Turn in: Self Assessment 1

Apr. 20-24   **Turn in:** MLA entries due (3)

Apr. 27-May 1 Work on final draft

May 4-8   **Turn in:** Final draft "Digital Tolkien" (10 DS pages)
Turn in: Self Assessment

Grades are due Monday, by 5:00 PM, which means that the end date for all
work due this week is noon, Sunday. No additional extensions are possible.

COURSE, DEPARTMENT & UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES

Course Procedures

Due Dates/Late Work/Extensions/Grading

Since our class is an online one, and technical problems occur regularly, I have a due date/extension policy that builds in flexibility for all assignments.

All assignments are due by 11:30 PM on Fridays (Central Time). However, if you are unable to turn an assignment in by the due date, you may take advantage of the automatic extension: as long as your assignment is turned in within 48 hours (by Sunday, at 11:30 PM), I consider it on time. This extension does not require instructor approval.

You may request additional short extensions for the discussions and writing assignments if necessary. However, in discussions, that may mean you receive few or no replies from classmates. To request an additional extension, email me by 11:30 PM Sunday night to request an additional 48 hours, to Tuesdays at 11:30 PM. Failure to request an extension means a 10% late penalty will be given.

I plan to grade all assignments within the following week; assignments that come in after the due date may take longer to grade.

If technical difficulties prevent you from submitting your work in a timely fashion, you must contact Technical Support with the problem. Contact me regarding a technical problem only after you have contacted tech support and have the case number assigned to the problem.

If work, family, or personal problems prevent you from submitting work on time or with an additional extension, you need to provide evidence for why you need additional time. Since assignments are due weekly, they can soon pile up if lengthy extensions or multiple extensions are requested. If you find yourself unable to complete the work for three weeks in a row, you should consider dropping the class.

Plagiarism

Plagiarism: The appropriation of another person's **ideas, processes, results, or words** without giving appropriate credit. (Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty Procedure 13.99.99.R0.10).

DLL Plagiarism Procedure

Instructors in the Department of Literature and Languages do not tolerate plagiarism. Instructors uphold and support the highest academic standards, and learners are expected to do likewise. Penalties for learners guilty of plagiarism can include disciplinary probation, suspension, and expulsion. (Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b [1, 2, 3])

The Department of Literature and Languages defines plagiarism as occurring when a writer deliberately uses someone else's language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source both in the text of the essay or paper and in a Works Cited page.

English 531.01W Plagiarism Procedure

The final essay does not require using secondary/academic sources because the focus is on developing an argument based on your reading of the primary text(s) and applying a digital methodology. The Scull and Hammond collection consists of Tolkien's art with background information by the editors: it is a resource you have the option to work with (depending on your topic), but it's not an academic source.

The assignment is to develop an analytical argument on a topic of your choosing (with instructor approval) and to apply a digital humanities methodology. The essay must still have a Works Cited page, with the novel and the digital tool cited. If you use Scull and Hammond, that must be cited as well.

The class bibliography will be a resource to be used by students who wish to develop their work on Tolkien in the future. If you are interested in presenting your work at a national conference, please speak to or email me about the Tolkien Studies Area I oversee for the Popular Culture Association.

DLL Student Grievance Procedure

Students who have concerns regarding their courses should first address those concerns with the assigned instructor in order to reach a resolution. Students who are unsatisfied with the outcome of that conversation or have not been able to meet individually with their instructor, whether in-person, by email, by telephone, or by another communication medium, should then schedule an appointment with the Assistant Department Head or the Department Head by completing a Student Grievance Form (available in the main office, HL 141).

In the event that the instructor is the Assistant Department Head, students should schedule a meeting with the Department Head. If the instructor is the Department Head, the student should schedule a meeting with the Dean of the College of Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts after following the steps outlined above. Where applicable, students should also consult University Procedure 13.99.99.R0.05 ("Student Appeal of Instructor Evaluation").

Departmental Chain of Command

Graduate ENG courses:
1. Professor
2. Director of Graduate Program:
    a. MA/MS-English: Dr. Susan Stewart
    b. MA/MS-Applied Linguistics with TESOL emphasis: Dr. Lucy Pickering
    c. PhD-English: Dr. Karen Roggenkamp
3. Dr. Hunter Hayes, Department Head
4. Dr. Karen Roggenkamp, Assistant Department Head

UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES

Student Conduct

All students enrolled at the University shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. The Code of Student Conduct is described in detail in the Student Guidebook.
http://www.tamuc.edu/Admissions/oneStopShop/undergraduateAdmissions/studentGuidebook.aspx

Students should also consult the Rules of Netiquette for more information regarding how to interact with students in an online forum:
https://www.britannica.com/topic/netiquette

TAMUC Attendance

For more information about the attendance policy please visit the Attendance webpage and Procedure 13.99.99.R0.01.
http://www.tamuc.edu/admissions/registrar/generalInformation/attendance.aspx

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/academic/13.99.99.R0.01.pdf

Academic Integrity

Students at Texas A&M University-Commerce are expected to maintain high standards of integrity and honesty in all of their scholastic work. For more

details and the definition of academic dishonesty see the following procedures:

[Graduate Student Academic Dishonesty 13.99.99.R0.10](#)

http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/13students/graduate/13.99.99.R0.10GraduateStudentAcademicDishonesty.pdf

Students with Disabilities ADA Statement

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library- Room 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu
Website: [Office of Student Disability Resources and Services](#)
http://www.tamuc.edu/campusLife/campusServices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/

Nondiscrimination Notice

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Campus Concealed Carry Statement

Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations.

For a list of locations, please refer to the [Carrying Concealed Handguns On Campus](#) document and/or consult your event organizer.

Web url: http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf

Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Collection of Data for Measuring Institutional Effectiveness

In order to measure the level of compliance with the university's Institutional Effectiveness guidelines, throughout the semester, I will collect some of the ungraded texts you produce. The texts will be part of a portfolio created on your behalf and will be measured to ensure that our program "promotes practices that result in higher student academic achievement; an enhanced student experience; aligned and transparent decisions; and readily available information for improvement, accountability, and accreditation." This collection of data is solely an assessment of program effectiveness and in no way affects students' course grades or GPAs.
See "Department of Institutional Effectiveness:
http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutus/institutionalEffectiveness/default.aspx.