

ENG 476 Senior Seminar

Section 01
Spring 2017

Professor Margaret Sinex

Office: Simpkins Hall, Room 226A

Office telephone: 298-1424 Main office 298-1103.

Email: ma-sinex@wiu.edu

Class meetings: Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 3:00 – 3:50 in Simpkins 027.

Office hours: Tuesday 3 – 4, Monday, Wednesday Friday 1- 2.

Your successful completion of this course depends on the crucial information in this syllabus. If you lose your copy, print a replacement from our Western Online site.

Course Description

ENG 476 explores J. R. R. Tolkien's major works *The Silmarillion* and *The Lord of the Rings* as well as his essay “On Fairy-stories” and selected personal letters. Students are encouraged to pursue the hermeneutic strategies they have developed in previous coursework as they engage with the significant and rapidly growing body of Tolkien scholarship. Participants will create an annotated bibliography of selected scholarly works as part of their preparation for writing a substantial research paper. Each student will give a presentation to the class about their evolving research project.

Teaching Method: Discussion, lecture and student presentations.

Catalog Description: 476 Senior Seminar. (3, repeatable to 6 for different topics) Intensive exploration of a major issue, era, author, or text, culminating in the writing of a substantial scholarly essay. [Writing Instruction in the Disciplines \(WID\)](#) course. Prerequisite: ENG 280, ENG 299 with a grade of C or better, senior standing, or consent of department chairperson.

Required Texts:

Fonstad, Karen Wynn. *The Atlas of Middle-earth*. Houghton Mifflin Rev. 1991.

Tolkien, J. R. R. *The Silmarillion*. Houghton Mifflin 2nd 2001.

---. *The Fellowship of the Ring*. Houghton Mifflin 2004.

---. *The Two Towers*. HBC Trade 1966.

---. *The Return of the King*. Houghton Mifflin 1966.

Course Requirements:

Evaluation

Annotated Bibliography - 6 items	25%
Class Presentation – 20 minutes	20%
Research paper – 12 pages	35%
1 Map (<i>The Silmarillion</i>)	5%

1 Chart of migrations (<i>The Silmarillion</i>)	5%
3 Reading Quizzes	10%

Scale

100 – 95 = A	89 – 87 = B+	79 – 77 = C+	69 – 67 = D+
94 – 90 = A-	86 – 83 = B	76 – 73 = C	66 – 63 = D
	82 – 80 = B-	72 – 70 = C-	62 – 60 = D-

Course Policies:

Failure to comply with the following policies will lower your grade.

Required Class Attendance Your regular, punctual attendance in class is mandatory. You have three “unexplained” absences. Use them intelligently for ordinary difficulties (a bad cold, flat tire on commute, late night visit to the ER with a friend, traffic court.) After that, each class missed will result in two points off your final grade for the course. Following these three “unexplained” absences I will accept an absence for the following three reasons only if you provide appropriate documentation. They are: University-sanctioned activities, death of a close relative, or prolonged illness. WIU can help you accommodate serious issues like these that prevent your attendance or severely affect your performance in the classroom. Contact your Advisor right away. (See Student Absence Clarification Policy at www.wiu.edu/policies/stuabsc.php)

Students must provide documentation in advance for required competitions and conferences (University-sanctioned activities).

Tardiness: Do not schedule classes back-to-back if you are unable to come to this class on time. Tardiness is recorded in writing. Habitual tardiness is regarded as disruptive behavior.

Persistently leaving the classroom during the period. This distracts your classmates. Take care of your business before entering the room.

Participation in the class discussion is essential to forming a reading community in this course; consequently, participation is an integral part of your final grade. If you are present in body but never speak or fail to read the assignment you are not participating. **Assigned reading** must be completed in its entirety for the classing meetings as noted in the Course Schedule.

The **Essay** and Annotated Bibliography are due on the assigned date at the beginning of class. Phone me or email me **before** the due date if you have a legitimate reason for being unable to meet the deadline and we **may** be able to accommodate you. **I do not accept essays by email.** The Essay is graded out of 100 points. **If it is late** it will lose 3 points for every day (not class period) it is late.

Course Schedule

The schedule is subject to change according to the needs of the class. All changes will be announced in a timely manner; it is your responsibility to keep informed of any alterations in the schedule.

Week 1

January

Monday 16

Wednesday 18 Introduction and Syllabus

Friday 20 Biography

Week 2

Monday 23 *The Silmarillion* Ainulindalë

Wednesday 25 Valqenta

Friday 27 Quenta Silmarillion Chapter 1 Of the Beginning of Days

Week 3

Monday 30 **Class canceled** for mandatory Writing Program meeting 3 – 4. Chapter 2 Of Aulë and Yvanna

February

Wednesday 1 Chapter 3 Of the Coming of the Elves and the Captivity of Melkor

Friday 3 Chapter 4 and 5 to p. 60 “The Noldor afterwards came back ...”.

Week 4

Monday 6 Finish Chapter 5 and Chapter 6 Of Fëanor and the Unchaining of Melkor

Wednesday 8 Chapter 7 Of the Silmarils and the Unrest of the Noldor

Friday 10

Week 5

Monday 13 **Lincoln’s Birthday Observed. No Class**

Wednesday 15 Chapter 8 Of the Darkening of Valinor

Friday 17 Chapter 9 Of the Flight of the Noldor

Week 6

Monday 20 Chapter 10 Of the Sindar

Wednesday 22 Chapter 11 Of the Sun and the Moon and the Hiding of Valinor and 12 Of Men.

Friday 24 Chapter 13 Of the Return of the Noldor

Week 7

Monday 27 M Chapter 14 Of Beleriand and its Realms and 15 Of the Noldor in Beleriand and 16 Of Maeglin

March

Wednesday 1 W Chapter 17 Of the Coming of Men into the West and 18 Of the Ruin of Beleriand and the Fall of Fingolfin

Friday 3 Chapter 19 Of Beren and Lúthien

Week 8

Monday 6 Continue Chapter 19 Of Beren and Lúthien **Annotated Bibliography Due.**

Wednesday 8 Continue Chapter 19 and 20 Of the Fifth Battle: Nirnaeth Arnoediad

Friday 10 Chapter 21 Of Túrin Turambar

Week 9

Monday 13 **March Break**

Wednesday 15

Friday 17

Week 10

Monday 20 Chapter 21 Continue Of Túrin Turambar

Wednesday 22 Chapter 22 Of the Ruin of Doriath and Chapter 23 Of Tuor and the Fall of Gondolin

Friday 24 Chapter 24 Of the Voyage of Eärendil and the War of Wrath. **Presentation.**

Week 11

Monday 27 Akallabêth **Presentation.**

Wednesday 29 *The Lord of the Rings. The Fellowship of the Ring* Book 1 Chapters 1 – 5.

Friday 31 Book 1 Chapters 6 – 9 **Presentation.**

Week 12

April

Monday 3 Book 1 Chapters 10 -12 **Presentation.**

Wednesday 5 *The Fellowship of the Ring* Book 2 Chapters 1 – 2 to break on 258.

Friday 7 Book 2 Chapters 2 from break on 258 – 4 to break on 302.

Week 13

Monday 10 Book 2 Chapters 4 from break on 302 – 7 to break on 345. **Presentation.**

Wednesday 12 Book 2 Chapters 7 from break on 345 - 10

Friday 14 *The Two Towers* Book 3 Chapters 1 – 3 **Presentation.**

Week 14

Monday 17 Book 3 Chapters 4 – 5 **Presentation.**

Wednesday 19 Book 4 Chapters 4 – 5 to break on 681.

Friday 21 Chapters 5 from break on 681- Chapter 10. **Presentation.**

Week 15

Monday 24 *The Return of the King* Book 5 Chapters 1 - 3

Wednesday 26 Book 5 Chapters 4 - 6

Friday 28 Book 5 Chapters 7 – 10 **Research Paper Due.**

Week 16

May

Monday 1 Book 6 Chapters 1 – 3

Wednesday 3 Book 6 Chapters 4 - 6

Friday 5 Book 6 Chapters 7 - 9

Exam Week

Monday

Wednesday

Friday

Academic dishonesty Academic dishonesty, including but not limited to “plagiarism, fabrication and falsification, [and] cheating” will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in accordance with Western Illinois University’s Student Academic Integrity Policy. To learn about infractions and procedures see: www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php.

In her *A Pocket Manual of Style* 7th ed., Diana Hacker defines plagiarism as “(1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas, (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words” (115).

Students with disabilities: In accordance with University values and disability law, students with disabilities may request academic accommodations where there are aspects of a course that result in barriers to inclusion or accurate assessment of achievement. To file an official request for disability-related accommodations, please contact the Disability Resource Center at 309-298-2512, disability@wiu.edu or in 143 Memorial Hall. Please notify the instructor as soon as possible to ensure that this course is accessible to you in a timely manner.

University values, Title IX, and other federal and state laws prohibit sex discrimination, including sexual assault/misconduct, dating/domestic violence, and stalking. If you, or someone you know, has been the victim of any of these offenses, we encourage you to report this to the Title IX Coordinator at 309-298-1977 or anonymously online at: http://www.wiu.edu/equal_opportunity_and_access/request_form/index.php. If you disclose an incident to a faculty member, the faculty member must notify the Title IX Coordinator. The complete Title IX policy is available at: <http://www.wiu.edu/vpas/policies/titleIX.php>.

Web address for student rights and responsibilities: <http://www.wiu.edu/provost/students.php>

