

Joshua Christian High School Course Description

20th Century British Authors English Eleven

I. Course Description

This course provides an in-depth look at the 20th century Oxford group of Christian writers and thinkers known as the Inklings. Readings include works from C.S. Lewis, Charles Williams, Dorothy Sayers, and J.R.R. Tolkien. An emphasis will be placed on critical thinking and academic writing.

II. Instructional Materials

The Space Trilogy by C.S. Lewis

Out of the Silent Planet

Perelandra

That Hideous Strength

The Lord of the Rings Trilogy by J.R.R. Tolkien

The Fellowship of the Rings

The Two Towers

The Return of the King

Gaudy Night by Dorothy Sayers

The Mind of the Maker by Dorothy Sayers

How to Read a Book by Adler and Van Doren

The Brief Holt Handbook -Third Edition by Kirszner and Mandell

The Inklings by Humphrey Carpenter, Houghton Mifflin 1978

III. Course Goals and Objectives

Goals

1. Students will become more capable in critical thinking.
2. Students will become more competent in academic writing.

Objectives

Students will:

1. Identify and summarize major arguments in a non-fiction work
2. Identify major themes in works of fiction and summarize fictional plots.
3. Support their interpretations of a text with textual citations.
4. Support their beliefs and opinions with reasonable arguments.

5. Respond to opposition to their opinions and beliefs with reasonable rebuttals.
6. Begin to distinguish between good and bad arguments.
7. Articulate significant ideas in their own words using outline and paragraphs.
8. Format written work and citations according to an academic standard (MLA).
9. Compose interesting argumentative thesis statements.
10. Visualize an intended audience and articulate opposition to a thesis.
11. Support a thesis with a well organized argument.
12. Sustain a plausible written argument for six or seven pages.

IV. Course Outline

1. Intensive reading, writing about and discussion of the following texts:

The Space Trilogy by C.S. Lewis

The Lord of The Rings Trilogy by J.R.R. Tolkien

Gaudy Night by Dorothy Sayers

Mind of the Maker by Dorothy Sayers

2. Use as reference tools the following:

The Inklings by Humphrey Carpenter

How to Read a Book by Alder and Van Doren

The Brief Holt Handbook-Third Edition by Kirsner and Mandell

V. Teaching Methods

1. Reading and written assignments
2. Synchronized online discussions with a Torrey tutor and the other students in the discussion group.

VI. Evaluation

A. Components

1. Graded precis (analytical summary)
2. Graded reflection essay
3. Graded integrated (Bible, Philosophy and English) term paper.

VII. Grading Scale

90-100 = A

80-90 = B

70-80 = C

60-70 = D

50-60 = F

Addendum

See attached Online Grading Scale and Writing Rubrics.