



---

## NAZARENE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

### EN 405 - J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings*: Faith, Fantasy, and Film

Spring 2005: 25 – 29 April

Dr. Tim Heath

**Office:** Room 511

**Class Times:** 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

**E-mail:** [theath@auc-nuc.ca](mailto:theath@auc-nuc.ca)

**Office Phone:** 571-2550 ext. 5904

**Class Location:** TBA

**Office Hours:** Mon to Fri 8:30 – 9:00/4:30 – 5:30 or by appointment

#### Required Texts

Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Lord of the Rings*. Any edition or issue of *LOTR* is adequate. Tolkien's appendices are desirable elements in any text of *LOTR*, but they are not essential to course content, so single-volume editions that often omit the appendices will serve perfectly well.

Note: the instructor will supplement the text with class handouts as needed.

#### Course Objectives

J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* stands as one of the twentieth-century's greatest literary achievements—all the more so because Middle-earth offers so complete a spiritual dimension, one best understood as Christian. The goal of English 405 lies with understanding as fully as possible the ways in which Tolkien's work engages such issues as good and evil, fate and freewill, mind and body, life after death, wisdom, and stewardship of the environment. The course will also examine Peter Jackson's recent cinematic adaptation of *LOTR* to inquire after the successes and shortcomings of so ambitious a project. **Because the course will move rather briskly all participants should have read *The Lord in the Rings* in advance.** Knowledge of *The Hobbit* and *The Silmarillion* as well as Jackson's films are definite assets, but not requirements, for the course.

## Course Schedule

Time	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Morning	<b>Registration</b> 8:00 to 10:00 am.  <b>10:00 Class begins:</b>  <i>LOTR</i> —an orientation and worldview	The Ring Goes South	The Ring Goes East	the Wise and wisdom in Middle-earth  mission and quest in <i>LOTR</i>	Power, freedom, choice, and happiness in <i>LOTR</i>  justice and mercy in <i>LOTR</i>
Lunch					
Afternoon	Tolkien as a cultural phenomenon  the narrative structure of <i>LOTR</i>  The Ring Sets Out	The Treason of Isengard   Jackson: <b>clip (reader-viewer response 1)</b>	The War of the Ring  The End of the Third Age  Jackson: <b>clip (reader-viewer response 2)</b>	the Rings: good and evil in <i>LOTR</i>  Pastoral and Stewardship in <i>LOTR</i>  Jackson: <b>clip (reader-viewer response 3)</b>	Mortality, Eternity, or death and hope in <i>LOTR</i>   <b>Final Exam</b> (part one, in-class 1; part two, take-home)

## Course Requirements and Grading

- Students should do all the prescribed readings before class and be prepared to participate in class to ensure lively discussions.
- Assignments are due on the dates specified. Late assignments will not be accepted, unless extenuating circumstances can be shown.
- To receive a passing grade in the course all assignments must be submitted to the instructor.
- Plagiarism in any of its forms will not be tolerated.
- Students may not submit work done for another class.
- Students are responsible for all the information given in class and also for any changes to the syllabus announced in class.
- Grading:

Reader-Viewer Response 1	10%
Reader-Viewer Response 2	10%
Reader-Viewer Response 3	10%
Participation	20%
Essay (due after term)	20%
Final Exam: in-class	15%
Final Exam: take-home	<u>15%</u>
	100