

MODULE CODE	TRU3025	MODULE LEVEL	3
MODULE TITLE	Tolkien: Scholar, Critic, Writer		
LECTURER(S)	Prof. Nick Groom		
CREDIT VALUE	30	ECTS VALUE	15
PRE-REQUISITES	At least one stage 2 module from TRU 2006/7/10/11		
CO-REQUISITES	None		
DURATION OF MODULE	11 weeks		
TOTAL STUDENT STUDY TIME	300 hours (including 11 x 2-hr seminars)		
AIMS			
<p>J.R.R. Tolkien is one of the most influential writers of the twentieth century – and one of the most neglected figures in academic literary criticism. This course aims to redress this by examining Tolkien as a writer, critic, and scholar, and by investigating the popular culture inspired by his work in film, music, gaming, and ephemera. The course will begin with Tolkien as a student of Old and Middle English philology, before focusing on his translations and criticism of Anglo-Saxon and Medieval poetry. The central component of the course will consist of detailed study of his three major works – <i>The Hobbit</i>, <i>The Lord of the Rings</i>, and <i>The Silmarillion</i> – with particular emphasis on formation and revision of these and associated texts, from <i>The Lost Road</i> to <i>The Children of Húrin</i>. Finally, the course will conclude with a comparison of the Ralph Bakshi and Peter Jackson film treatments and other examples of reception in different media.</p> <p>The course will also consider how far Tolkien's trips to Cornwall affected his work.</p>			
INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES (ILO's)			
<p><i>On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:</i></p> <p><i>Module Specific Skills:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrate informed appreciation of specific works of scholarship, translation, criticism, and fiction by J.R.R. Tolkien, demonstrate an appreciation of Anglo-Saxonism, Medievalism, the Gothic, Modernism, and war literature, demonstrate an informed appreciation of the relation between twentieth-century literature and the important historical, intellectual, and technological developments of the time, demonstrate an understanding of the adaptation of specific literary works into film and other media of mass culture, demonstrate an understanding of the significance of place and the environment in literary works. <p><i>Discipline Specific Skills:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> demonstrate an ability to analyse the literature of an earlier era and to relate its concerns and its modes of expression to its historical context and to contemporary culture, demonstrate an ability to interrelate texts and discourses specific to their own discipline with issues in the wider context of cultural and intellectual history, demonstrate an ability to understand and analyse relevant theoretical ideas, and to apply these ideas to literary texts. <p><i>Personal and Key Skills:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> through seminar work, demonstrate communication skills, and an ability to work both individually and in groups, through essay-writing, demonstrate appropriate research and bibliographic skills, a capacity to construct a coherent, substantiated argument, and a capacity to write clear and correct prose, through research for seminars and essays, demonstrate proficiency in information retrieval and analysis. 			
LEARNING/TEACHING METHODS			
<p><i>Details of Learning and Teaching Methods:</i></p> <p>Teaching is by one 2-hour seminar per week. Seminars will involve a variety of learning and teaching methods, including group-work and tutor- and student-led discussion. Seminar attendance is compulsory, and students are expected to participate in seminar discussions.</p> <p>All coursework assignments listed below, including formative assessment, must be passed in order for the module itself to be passed. Mitigation Committee or the Head of Department may in exceptional circumstances waive this requirement.</p>			

ASSIGNMENTS & ASSESSMENTS				
Formative or % Contribution:	Form of Assessment:	Size of the assessment e.g. duration/length	ILOs assessed by this assessment:	Feedback method:
35%	Essay	2,000 words	MSS 1-3, 5 (&4), DSS 1-3, PKS 2-3	Coversheet (written) and oral
15%	Presentation	10 minutes	MSS 1-3, 5 (&4), DSS 1-3, PKS 1	Oral
50%	Essay	3,000 words	MSS 1-3, 5 (&4), DSS 1-3, PKS 2-3	Coversheet (written) and oral
SYLLABUS PLAN				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduction 2. <i>Beowulf</i> translation, 'The Monsters and the Critics' 3. <i>The Battle of Maldon</i>, 'The Homecoming of Beorhtnoth Beorhthelm's Son' 4. <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> and <i>Sir Orfeo</i> translations, 'Farmer Giles of Ham', 'Smith of Wootton Major', 'On Fairy-Stories' 5. <i>The Hobbit</i> and 'The Lost Road', extracts from William Morris, E.R. Eddison, and Lord Dunsany 6. <i>The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring</i>, 'Proverbs of Boethius' (Alfred) 7. <i>The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers</i>, 'The Wanderer', 'The Finnesburg Fragment' and Tolkien's commentary 8. <i>The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King</i>, extracts from the <i>Volsunga Saga</i> and <i>Nibelungenlied</i> (and Richard Wagner) 9. <i>The Silmarillion</i>, extracts from the <i>Kalevala</i> 10. Filming Middle-Earth: Bakshi and Jackson 11. Middle-Earth and the Culture Industry: <i>The Children of Húrin</i>, 'Mythopoeia' 				
INDICATIVE LEARNING RESOURCES				
<p>Indicative basic reading list (try Amazon secondhand or Abebooks online – don't order as a 'print on demand' or facsimile – these are often both expensive and unreliable):</p> <p>Primary Reading (Tolkien) – texts in order of classes 'The Monsters and the Critics' [course reader] or <i>The Monsters and the Critics and Other Essays</i> (HarperCollins, 1997) <i>Beowulf</i> [course reader] 'The Homecoming of Beorhtnoth' [handout] <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Pearl, Sir Orfeo</i>, (with E.V. Gordon and Norman Davis) (HarperCollins, 1996) 'Farmer Giles of Ham' in <i>Tales of the Perilous Realm</i> (HarperCollins, 2002) <i>Smith of Wootton Major</i>, ed. Verlyn Flieger (HarperCollins, 2005); also in <i>Tales of the Perilous Realm</i> (HarperCollins, 2002) 'On Fairy-Stories' [handout] or in edition <i>Tolkien on Fairy Stories</i>, ed. Verlyn Flieger and Douglas A. Anderson (HarperCollins, 2008) <i>The Annotated Hobbit</i>, ed. Douglas Anderson (Houghton Mifflin, 2002) 'The Lost Road' [course reader] <i>Finn and Hengist: The Fragment and the Episode</i> (HarperCollins, 1998) <i>The Lord of the Rings</i> (HarperCollins, 1999) <i>The Silmarillion</i> (HarperCollins, 1992) <i>The Children of Húrin</i> (HarperCollins, 2008) 'Mythopoeia' [handout] [plus further extracts in course reader]</p> <p>Films <i>The Lord of the Rings</i>, dir. Ralph Bakshi (1978) <i>The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring</i>, dir. Peter Jackson (2001) <i>The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers</i>, dir. Peter Jackson (2002) <i>The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King</i>, dir. Peter Jackson (2003)</p>				

Secondary Reading (Tolkien)

The Letters of J.R.R. Tolkien (HarperCollins, 1999)
Unfinished Tales, ed. Christopher Tolkien (HarperCollins, 1998)
The History of Middle-Earth, 3 vols (HarperCollins, 2000)

Secondary Films

The Hobbit, dir. Rankin/Bass (1977)
The Return of the King, dir. Rankin/Bass (1980)

Recommended Critical Reading

Carpenter, Humphrey, *J. R. R. Tolkien: A Biography* (Allen & Unwin, 1977)
Chance, Jane (ed.), *Tolkien the Medievalist* (Routledge, 2002)
Chance, Jane (ed.), *Tolkien and the Invention of Myth* (Kentucky University Press, 2004)
Croft, Janet Brennan, *Tolkien on Film: Essays on Peter Jackson's The Lord of the Rings* (Mythopoeic Press, 2005)
Curry, Patrick, *Defending Middle-Earth: Tolkien, Myth and Modernity* (Houghton Mifflin, 2004)
Eaglestone, Robert (ed.), *Reading The Lord of the Rings: New Essays on Tolkien's Trilogy* (Continuum, 2005)
Fimi, Dmitra, *Tolkien, Race and Cultural History: From Fairies to Hobbits* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2008)
Flieger, Verlyn, *A Question of Time: J.R.R. Tolkien's Road to 'Faerie'* (Kent State University Press, 1997)
Flieger, Verlyn and Douglas Anderson, *Tolkien on Fairy-Stories* (HarperCollins, 2008)
Garth, John, *Tolkien and the Great War: The Threshold of Middle-Earth* (HarperCollins, 2004)
Gilliver, Peter, Jeremy Marshall, and Edmund Weiner, *The Ring of Words: Tolkien and the Oxford English Dictionary* (OUP, 2006)
Hammond, Wayne and Christina Scull, *The J.R.R. Tolkien Companion and Guide* (HarperCollins, 2006)
Morton, Timothy, 'Environmentalism' in Nicholas Roe, *Romanticism: An Oxford Guide* (OUP, 2005), 696-707
Reynolds, Patricia and Glen GoodKnight (eds), *Proceedings of the J.R.R. Tolkien Centenary Conference, 1992* (Tolkien Society, 1995)
Shippey, T.A., *The Road to Middle-Earth* (HarperCollins, 2005)
Shippey, T.A., *Tolkien: Author of the Century* (HarperCollins, 2000)
'Turgon' [David E. Smith] (ed.), *The Tolkien Fan's Medieval Reader* (Cold Spring Press Fantasy, 2004)

Indicative web based resources:

Exeter Learning Environment (e-learning platform)
J-STOR
Project Muse
<http://www.tolkiensociety.org/>
<http://www.tolkienestate.com/home/>

Other resources:

Handouts
Photocopied course reader (required purchase)

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