

**VICTORIA UNIVERSITY OF WELLINGTON
SCHOOL OF ENGLISH, FILM, THEATRE, AND MEDIA STUDIES**

ENGL 227 TOLKIEN AND MEDIEVAL LITERATURE 2006 (2/3)

COURSE ORGANIZATION

Teaching Staff

Dr Christine Franzen (Convener)	VZ 919; 463-6805	christine.franzen@vuw.ac.nz
Professor Robert Easting	VZ 901; 463-6803	robert.easting@vuw.ac.nz
Mr Jamie Norrish		jamie@artefact.org.nz
Dr Tim McKenzie		tim.mckenzie@vuw.ac.nz

Class times and lecture theatre: Mon, Tues, Thurs 9-10, Hunter 220; tut. t.b.a.

Information: Additional information will be posted on the course's Blackboard site and the English notice-board, Hugh McKenzie Level 3.

AIMS, OBJECTIVES, AND CONTENT

Course aims and objectives

The course aims to give readers of Tolkien an introduction to some early Northern European texts which Tolkien, a distinguished philologist, knew intimately, and which were influential on his fictional writings. For the reader of modern literature, *The Lord of the Rings* is an excellent point of entry to early literature, for medieval texts are the source of much of the material in Tolkien's mythological history of Middle Earth.

The objectives of the course are to give students an informed understanding of how Tolkien's fictional worlds came to be created; how Tolkien's academic and creative writing are linked; and how reading *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Silmarillion* is enhanced by knowledge of selected texts from the narrative and poetic heritage of Old English, Old Norse, Old Welsh, Old Irish, Middle English, and Finnish.

Students passing the course should be able to:

- a) recognize in *The Lord of the Rings* and extracts from *The Silmarillion* some of Tolkien's use of a range of medieval texts from different countries, centuries, and traditions;
- b) understand some of the links between Tolkien's philological and fictional interests;
- c) read in Middle English a major fourteenth-century poem in the dialect of the West Midlands, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*: Tolkien prepared what is still the principal scholarly edition of this poem and he was a particular expert on this dialect;
- d) write critical essays on some of the relationships between medieval texts and Tolkien's fiction.

Course content: see Course Schedule below.

Key texts

The following books need to be purchased:

J. R. R. Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings* (London: HarperCollins, 1991)
[One-volume pbk edn. with Appendices & Indexes]
Beowulf: A Verse Translation, trans. Seamus Heaney, ed. Daniel Donoghue (New York & London: Norton, 2002)
The Saga of the Volsungs, trans. Jesse L. Byock (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1999)
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, ed. Christine Franzen, 3rd edn. VUW, 2002 (Student Notes)
ENGL 227 Tolkien and Medieval Literature: Course Anthology (Student Notes)
ENGL 227 Tolkien and Medieval Literature: Course Notes (Student Notes)

ASSESSMENT

Assessment requirements

The two assignments, each approximately 1750 words, are each worth 30%; final, three-hour, Registry-conducted, examination is worth 40%.

Due dates

Assignment one: Monday, 11 September, 5.00 p.m.
Assignment two: Friday, 13 October, 5.00 p.m.

Penalties

If you require an extension for an assignment, you must apply to your tutor **in writing** at least 24 hours before the deadline, providing appropriate documentation, e.g. a relevant medical certificate. For each week of late submission which has not been approved by your tutor, the result for that part of the assessment will be reduced by one grade (e.g. up to one week late B > B-; one to two weeks late B > C+, etc.).

Relationship between assessment and course objectives

The assignments and final examination give students the opportunity to demonstrate their understanding of both medieval texts and Tolkien's fiction.

WORKLOADS AND MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Workload

Students in 200-level one-trimester papers are reckoned to require an average of 15 hours work per week including class contact time to maintain satisfactory progress.

Mandatory course requirements

In order to complete the mandatory course requirements you need to:

- attend at least 70% of tutorials, i.e. 7 out of 11;
- complete all work set for in-term assessment;
- and sit the final examination.

Dr Christine Franzen, Course Convener

ENGL 227 COURSE SCHEDULE 2006 (there may be some variation)

Week 1	Mon 10 July	Tolkien and philology I	CF/RE
	Tues 11	Tolkien and philology II	
	CF/RE		
	Thu 13	Who, where, when?: medieval survey	RE
Week 2	Mon 17	Old Norse mythology	CF
	Tues 18	<i>Volsungs Saga</i> I	CF
	Thu 20	<i>Volsungs Saga</i> II	CF
Week 3	Mon 24	Elves	CF
	Tues 25	<i>The Silmarillion</i>	CF
	Thu 27	Introductions and identities in <i>LOTR</i>	JN
Week 4	Mon 31	Finnish: <i>The Kalevala</i>	RE
	Tues 1 Aug	Old English and <i>LOTR</i>	CF
	Thu 3	Monsters and men	CF
Week 5	Mon 7	<i>Beowulf</i> I	CF
	Tues 8	<i>Beowulf</i> II	CF
	Thu 10	<i>Beowulf</i> III	CF
Week 6	Mon 14	Tolkien and Augustine	TM
	Tues 15	Medieval weapons and warfare and <i>LOTR</i>	
	Thu 17	Language of <i>LOTR</i>	RE
AUGUST VACATION			
Week 7	Mon 4 Sept	The Evolution of <i>LOTR</i> I	CF
	Tues 5	The Evolution of <i>LOTR</i> II	CF
	Thu 7	Old Irish: <i>Bricriu's Feast</i>	RE
1st ESSAY DUE MONDAY 11 SEPTEMBER			
Week 8	Mon 11	Old Welsh: <i>Culhwch and Olwen</i>	RE
	Tues 12	Songs in <i>LOTR</i> I	RE
	Thu 14	Songs in <i>LOTR</i> II	RE
Week 9	Mon 18	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> : language	RE
	Tues 19	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> , Fitt I	RE
	Thu 21	Tolkien's construction of Faery I	JN
Week 10	Mon 25	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> , Fitt II	RE
	Tues 26	Tolkien's construction of Faery II	JN
	Thu 28	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> , Fitt III	RE
Week 11	Mon 2 Oct	Chivalry and Courtesy	RE
	Tues 3	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> , Fitt IV	RE
	Thu 5	Quest I	RE
Week 12	Mon 9	Quest II	RE
	Tues 10	Tolkien and the Imagination	TM
	Thu 12	to be arranged	
2nd ESSAY DUE FRIDAY 13 OCTOBER			

ENGL 227 Tolkien and Medieval Literature: Select Bibliography

Volumes marked with * contain useful bibliographies.

TOLKIEN

Primary

- Finn and Hengest: The Fragment and the Episode*. Ed. Alan Bliss. London, 1982.
- Letters of J. R. R. Tolkien*. Ed. Humphrey Carpenter, with the assistance of Christopher Tolkien. London, 1981.
- Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. Ed. J. R. R. Tolkien & E. V. Gordon. Oxford, 1925. Rev. edn. Norman Davis. Oxford, 1969.*
- Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Pearl, Sir Orfeo*. Ed. Christopher Tolkien. London 1975. [Tolkien's translations from Middle English.]
- The Hobbit*. London, 1937.
- The Lord of the Rings*:
 The Fellowship of the Ring. London, 1954
 The Two Towers & The Return of the King. London, 1955.
- The Monsters and the Critics and Other Essays*. Ed. Christopher Tolkien. London, 1983.
- The Silmarillion*. Ed. Christopher Tolkien. London, 1977.

Secondary

- Blackwelder, Richard E. *A Tolkien Thesaurus*. New York & London, 1990.
- Carpenter, Humphrey. *J. R. R. Tolkien: The Authorized Biography*. London, 1977.*
- Clark, George, & Daniel Timmons. *J. R. R. Tolkien and His Literary Resonances: Views of Middle-earth*. Westport, Conn. & London, 2000.*
- Fonstad, Karen Wynn. *The Atlas of Middle-earth*. Boston, 1981.
- Foster, Robert. *The Complete Guide to Middle-Earth*. London, 1978.
- Shippey, Tom. *The Road to Middle-Earth*. London, 1982.*
- *J. R. R. Tolkien Author of the Century*. London, 2000.*
- The History of Middle Earth*. Ed. Christopher Tolkien. 12 vols. London, 1983-1996.

OLD NORSE

- The Saga of the Volsungs: The Norse Epic of Sigurd the Dragon Slayer*. Trans. Jesse L. Byock. 1990. Harmondsworth, 1999.
[Set text.]
- Volsunga saga: The Saga of the Volsungs*. With an English Translation, Introduction and Notes by Karen Grimstad. Bibliotheca Germanica, Series Nova, vol. 3. Saarbrücken, 2000.*

Other texts

- Gordon, E.V. *An Introduction to Old Norse*. 1927. 2nd edn. rev. A. R. Taylor. Oxford, 1957.
- Sturluson, Snorri. *Edda*. Trans. & ed. Anthony Faulkes. London, 1987.*
- The Poetic Edda*. Trans. Carolyne Larrington. Oxford, 1996.*

The Poetic Edda. Ed. with Translation Introduction and Commentary by Ursula Dronke. Vol. 1 *Heroic Poems*. Oxford, 1969.* Vol. 2 *Mythological Poems*. Oxford, 1997.*

FINNISH

Kalevala: The Land of Heroes. Trans. by W. F. Kirby. London, 1907.

[Translation used by Tolkien.]

The Kalevala or Poems of the Kaleva District Compiled by Elias Lönnrot. Trans. Francis Peabody Magoun, Jr. Cambridge, Mass, & London, 1963.*

The Kalevala: An Epic Poem after Oral Tradition by Elias Lönnrot. Trans. Keith Bosley. Oxford, 1989.*

OLD ENGLISH

Beowulf: A Verse Translation. Trans. Seamus Heaney. Ed. Daniel Donoghue. New York, 2002.* [Set text]

Beowulf: A Prose Translation. Trans. E. Talbot Donaldson. Ed. Nicholas Howe. New York, 2002.*

OLD WELSH

Culhwch and Olwen

Text supplied from:

The Mabinogion. Trans. Jeffrey Gantz. Harmondsworth, 1976.*

Culhwch and Olwen: An Edition and Study of the Oldest Arthurian Tale. Ed. Rachel Bromwich & D. Simon Evans. Cardiff, 1992.*

The Mabinogion. Trans. Gwynn Jones & Thomas Jones. London, 1949.

The Mabinogion from the Llyfr Coch o Hergest, and other ancient Welsh manuscripts, with an English Translation and Notes, by Lady Charlotte Guest. 3 vols. London, 1838-49.
----- Illustrated by Alan Lee. London, 2000.

OLD IRISH

Bricriu's Feast

Text supplied from:

Early Irish Myths and Sagas. Trans. Jeffrey Gantz. Harmondsworth, 1981.*

Ancient Irish Tales. Ed. Tom Peete Cross & Clark Harris Slover. 1936. With a revised bibliography by Charles W. Dunn. New York, 1969.

Fled Bricrend: The Feast of Bricriu. Ed. George Henderson. Irish Texts Society. Vol. 2. London, 1899.

MIDDLE ENGLISH

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight. Ed. Christine Franzen. 3rd edn. VUW, 2002.

[Set text, available from Student Notes.]

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight. Ed. J. R. R. Tolkien & E. V. Gordon. Oxford, 1925. Rev. edn. Norman Davis. Oxford, 1969.*

[Principal scholarly edn.]

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Pearl, Sir Orfeo. Ed. Christopher Tolkien. London 1975.

[Tolkien's translations from Middle English.]

A Companion to the Gawain-Poet. Ed. Derek Brewer & Jonathan Gibson. Cambridge, 1997.*

Pearl. Ed. Ida L. Gordon. Oxford, 1953.

Sir Orfeo. Ed. A. J. Bliss. 2nd edn. Oxford, 1966.

Fourteenth Century Verse and Prose. Ed. Kenneth Sisam, with a glossary by J. R. R. Tolkien. Oxford, 1922.