

Department of English & Writing Studies

Speculative Fiction: Fantasy

English 2072F (650)

Fall 2020

Instructor: Dr. Gabrielle Ceraldi

Delivery Type: Online

Course Description

This course presents a study of the purposes and historical origins of fantasy, and modern developments in fantasy: alternate worlds, horror or ghost stories, sword and sorcery, and heroic romance.

Learning Objectives:

By the end of the course, the successful student will be able to:

- < Place individual texts into the context of the fantasy genre as a whole;
- < Identify and analyze the basic elements of literature such as plot, character, point of view, theme, setting, imagery, and diction;
- < Understand the political, religious, moral, and philosophical underpinnings of the texts on the course;
- < Write an essay about a work of literature containing an effective thesis supported by adequate evidence from the original text;
- < Offer independent insights, beyond those outlined in class;
- < Organize and present ideas clearly and effectively.

Course Materials

* J. R. R. Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings*, including *The Fellowship of the Ring*, *The Two Towers*, and *The Return of the King*.

* J. K. Rowling,

* Peter S. Beagle, *The Last Unicorn*

Readings

This course, English 2072F/G, focuses specifically on fantasy literature though it touches upon materials that are examined more fully in the other two courses: Science Fiction, English 2071F/G, and English 2073F/G, a course which considers texts that are principally utopian.

WEEK 11: November 26-December 2

Dan Simmons, *Song of Kali*.

WEEK 12: December 3-9

*all stories are taken from *Fantastic Worlds: Myths, Tales, and Stories*, edited by Eric S. Rabkin

Methods of Evaluation

| | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-------------------|
| Essay # 1 (1000-1250 words / 4 pages) | 25% | Due Oct. 21, 2019 |
| Essay # 2 (1500-1750 words / 6 pages) | 35% | Due Nov. 25, 2019 |
| Final Exam | 30% | |
| Forum Posts | 10% | Due Dec. 11, 2019 |

Discussion questions will be posted on the Forums board each week, and you may post your answers anytime during that week; each discussion topic will be locked a few days after the end of that week. For full credit, you must post a total of 10 substantial posts. A substantial post is one in which you discuss something specific about the text at hand (ideally using quotations and/or specific details and commenting on their significance). There is no penalty for contributing less substantial posts (such as expressions of agreement with another student or general reflections about the fantasy genre), but these posts do not count towards your grade.

All grades, once assigned and/or posted, are final. While formal appeal processes do exist in the Department of English and Writing Studies, grades will not be changed after the fact in response to emailed requests and/or GPA requirements, nor will the weighting of assignments be altered for individual students.

Please note: The Department of English & Writing Studies does not release final grades. All undergraduate grade reports will be available online from the Office of the Registrar.

Students are fully responsible for looking at and being familiar with the information posted on the department website at

<https://www.uwo.ca/english/undergraduate/Student%20Information.html>

Grading Rubric

THESIS

- ◁ Is there a unifying idea in this paper?
- ◁ Is this idea specific, original, and argumentative?
- ◁ Is this idea explained clearly near the beginning of the paper?

ARGUMENT

- ◁ Does the material in this paper go beyond description to explore the implications and meaning of the text(s)?
- ◁ Have opposing ideas been acknowledged and given a convincing response?

ORGANIZATION

- ◁ Do paragraph breaks reflect a meaningful shift in topic?
- ◁ Does the opening sentence of each paragraph identify the central idea of that paragraph and its relationship to the thesis?

USE OF SOURCES

- ◁ Is there textual evidence to back up each claim in the paper?
- ◁ Is there an attention to detail (word choice, imagery, etc.) that adds intricacy to the argument?
- ◁ Are quotations integrated smoothly and cited correctly?

STYLE

- ◁ Is the writing style clear, concise, and readable, so that the focus falls on the ideas in the paper?
- ◁ Are sentences punctuated correctly?

A+ (90-

A (80-

B (70-

C (60-

D (50-

F (49 or below) = Unsatisfactory (does not meet the requirements for the assignment)

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