

Wycliffe College

WYP2610HS: The Evangelistic Legacy of C.S. Lewis

Winter/Spring Semester 2016

Wednesdays 7 – 9 pm.

Course Statement

A consideration of the biography, theology, and fiction of C.S.Lewis, with attention to his understanding and practice of evangelism, and its applicability today.

Learning outcomes

- That students become familiar with the biography of C.S.Lewis and his literary canon, its themes and theological underpinnings, and that they are inspired to study more of his work
- That students understand his approach to evangelism and consider adapting some of his approach for their own ministries

Contact information

Instructor: John Bowen

Phone: (cell) 289 237 0891

Email: john.bowen@utoronto.ca

Course textbooks

The Essential C.S.Lewis edited by Lyle W. Dorsett (Toronto: Simon and Schuster, 1988 and 1996). Available at Crux Books.

The Great Divorce, C.S.Lewis (HarperCollins edition 2001)

Schedule of Classes

January 13	Introductions Introduction to evangelism <i>Reading for next week: from <u>Surprised by Joy</u> 23-50</i>
January 20	Lewis' biography Lewis' understanding of evangelism

Reading for next week: *God in the Dock* 326-329 and *Rejoinder to Dr. Pittenger* 344-348

January 27	Lewis and translation <u>Reading for next week: <i>Meditation in a Toolshed</i> (handout); <i>Letters</i>, 51-56 and 522-532.</u>
February 3	The Christian worldview of C.S.Lewis I <u>Reading for next week: from <i>The Screwtape Letters</i> 297-304 and <i>The World's Last Night</i> 383-392</u>
February 10	The Christian worldview of C.S.Lewis II ▪ NB: JB has to be away on this date, so we will need to re-negotiate how to make up the lost time. <u>Reading for February 24: <i>Miracles</i> 334-343 and <i>The Weight of Glory</i> 361-370</u>
February 17	No class: Reading Week
February 24	The Christian worldview of C.S.Lewis III <u>Reading for next week: from <i>Mere Christianity</i> 309-325</u>
March 2	The Christian worldview of C.S.Lewis IV <u>Reading for next week: from <i>Reflections on the Psalms</i> 393-406 and from <i>Letters to Malcolm</i> 407-411</u>
March 9	The Christian worldview of C.S.Lewis V
March 16	How to prepare and lead an evangelistic teaching course
March 23	Visiting lecturer <i>[If you require an SDF, today is the last day to request it.]</i>
March 30	<i>The Chronicles of Narnia</i> as an Evangelistic Text
April 6	C.S.Lewis in the media

Assignments

1. The Great Divorce

Please read and write a book report on *The Great Divorce*. Please read and follow the guidelines in the document, HOW TO WRITE A BOOK REPORT, which will be available on the course website before doing this assignment.

Length: 600-800 words (2-3 pages)

Marks: out of 10.

Due date: January 30th

2. Reading quiz

There will be an online quiz on the weekly readings. For this, you may make use of the notes you have made on the readings and/or of the readings themselves, i.e. it is "open-book." The quiz will be mounted on the website sometime after reading week, and may then be done in your own time.

Due date: April 6

Marks: out of 30.

3. Translation

"An essential part of the ordination exam ought to be a passage from some recognized theological work set for translation into vulgar English . . . Failure on this part should mean failure on the whole exam. It is absolutely disgraceful that we expect missionaries to the Bantus to learn Bantu, but never ask whether our missionaries to the Americans or English can speak American or English. Any fool can write learned language: the vernacular is the real test. If you can't turn your faith into it, then either you don't understand it or you don't believe it."

Letter to the Editor, "The Christian Century," in *God in the Dock*, 338.

Write a "translation" or paraphrase of the Apostles' Creed or the Nicene Creed into contemporary vernacular English. Please include an introductory and/or closing paragraph to explain what audience you have in mind, what principles you are applying, what difficulties you faced, etc. You may also provide footnotes relating to specific terms. No explicit references to Lewis are necessary.

Length: 600-800 words (2-3 pages)

Marks: out of 20.

Due date: February 24th

4. Evangelistic Lewis

Put together an "evangelistic teaching" course based on what you have read in C.S. Lewis (either for the course or beforehand). This would be for people who are not Christians but who are interested in Lewis and his faith. The intention is that the four sessions would lay out the most important aspects of Christian faith, as Lewis understands it, and respond to people's questions, such that by the end they are in a

position to say an informed yes or no to Christ. Each session should centre on a particular passage from Lewis (which participants will read beforehand).

- Explain your choice of readings, and how the four form a coherent theological whole.
- Include the questions you will ask about each reading (in a conversational, verbatim kind of way, not academically), and explain why you think they are helpful questions.
- Reflect on the non-academic aspects of this course, e.g. what kind of person might attend (you can create composite characters), where you would hold the sessions, what other resources (e.g. scripture, video etc.) you might use, what you might imagine to be the problems that might arise and how you would respond, and what happens once the course is over.

NB: Before writing your assignment, please read the documents “That’s a Good Question!” and “How to answer back,” which will be posted on the website, and shape your questions in the light of them.

Length: 2,500 words.

Marks out of 40.

Due date: April 20

POLICY ON ASSIGNMENT EXTENSIONS

Students are expected to hand in assignments by the date given in the course outline. One percentage point per weekday will be deducted on the grade if an extension has not been requested and granted *before* the stated deadline.

Under **exceptional circumstances** (e.g. death in the family or serious illness), students may request an extension (SDF = “standing deferred”) beyond the term. An extension, when granted, will have a mutually agreed upon deadline that does not extend beyond the conclusion of the following term. An SDF must be requested ***no later than two weeks before the completion of the term*** in which the course is taken. The request form is available on the college website or from the Registrar’s office.

Outcomes

COURSE OUTCOMES	COURSE ELEMENT	PROGRAM OUTCOMES
By the end of this course, students	This outcome will be achieved through these course elements:	This course outcome corresponds to these aspects of Wycliffe’s statements of outcomes

		(MTS, MDiv)
Will have begun to learn how to integrate mind, heart and imagination in the communication of the Christian message	Readings, lectures (especially #10), assignments (especially 3a.)	M.Div: I e., II d. MTS: 2.1, 2.3
Will have begun to develop an ability to articulate the Gospel in ways which connect with unchurched people	Readings, lectures (especially #3), assignment (especially 3a. and 3b.)	M.Div: III d. MTS: 2.3
Will have come to understand Christianity as a worldview, addressing the major questions of life	Readings, lectures 4-8	M.Div: I e., II d. MTS 2.3, 3.1
Will have begun to develop an understanding and practice of evangelism which is respectful, reasoned, relational, and culturally sensitive.	Readings, lectures (especially #2), assignments (especially 3b).	M.Div: I d., III f. MTS: 3.3

Select Bibliography

1. Books by C.S.Lewis (in chronological order):

Spirits in Bondage: A Cycle of Lyrics (1919; New York: Harcourt 1984)

The Pilgrim's Regress, (1933; London: Collins Fount Paperbacks 1977; annotated version Grand Rapids: Eerdmans 2014)

The Problem of Pain (London: Geoffrey Bles 1940; Fontana Books 1957)

Screwtape Letters (London: Geoffrey Bles 1942; Fontana 1977)

The Abolition of Man (1944; San Francisco: Harper Collins 2001)

The Great Divorce (London: Geoffrey Bles, 1946; Harper Collins, 1977)

George MacDonald: An Anthology (editor) (London: Geoffrey Bles 1946)

Miracles (London: Geoffrey Bles 1947; Fontana 1960)

Mere Christianity (London: Geoffrey Bles 1952; Fontana Books 1977)

Surprised by Joy: the Shape of my Early Life (London: Geoffrey Bles 1955; Collins Fontana 1960)

Reflections on the Psalms (1958; Fontana 1973)

The Four Loves (London: Geoffrey Bles 1960)

A Grief Observed (London: Faber and Faber 1961)

Letters to Malcolm, Chiefly on Prayer (1964; New York: Harcourt, 2002)

Literary

The Personal Heresy: A Controversy, by E.M.W.Tillyard and C.S.Lewis (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1939)

The Discarded Image: An Introduction to Medieval and Renaissance Literature (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1967)

Collections of essays:

Screwtape Proposes a Toast (London: Fontana Books 1965)

God in the Dock: Essays on Theology and Ethics (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans 1970)

Fernseeds and Elephants and Other Essays on Christianity (London: Collins Fontana 1975)

Of This and Other Worlds, ed. Walter Hooper (London: Collins Fount Paperbacks, 1982)

Present Concerns (New York: Harcourt Brace Janovich 1986)

Fiction:

The Cosmic Trilogy (London: The Bodley Head, 1938; Pan Books 1990)

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (London: Geoffrey Bles 1950; London: HarperCollins 1980)

Prince Caspian (London: Geoffrey Bles, 1951; Harmondsworth UK: Puffin Books, 1962)

The Horse and his Boy (London: Geoffrey Bles 1954; Harmondsworth: Puffin Books 1965)

The Magician's Nephew, (London: The Bodley Head 1955; Penguin Books 1965), 36.

The Voyage of the Dawn Treader (London: Geoffrey Bles, 1955; London: HarperCollins 1980)

The Last Battle (London: The Bodley Head 1956; London: Collins 1980)

Till We have Faces (London: Geoffrey Bles 1956)

Letters & diary:

The Collected Letters of C.S.Lewis, Volumes 1-3, ed. Walter Hooper (San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 2004-2006)

Letters to an American Lady (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans 1967; 1971)

Letters of C.S.Lewis, ed. W.H.Lewis (New York: Harcourt Brace 1966)

The Letters of C.S.Lewis to Arthur Greeves 1914-1963, ed. Walter Hooper (New York: MacMillan 1979; 1986)

Letters of C.S.Lewis to Don Giovanni Calabria: A Study in Friendship (London: Collins 1989)

Letters to Children, ed. Lyle Dorsett and Marjorie Lamp Mead (Toronto: Simon and Schuster 1985)

All My Road Before Me: The Diary of C.S.Lewis 1922-1927 (New York: Harcourt Brace 1991)

2. Biographical

Humphrey Carpenter, *The Inklings* (London: George Allen and Unwin 1978)

James T. Como (ed) *C.S.Lewis at the Breakfast Table and Other Reminiscences*, (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich 1992)

David Downing *The Most Reluctant Convert: C.S.Lewis' Journey to Faith* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press 2002)

Roger Lancelyn Green and Walter Hooper, *C.S.Lewis: a Biography* (New York: Harcourt Brace 1974)

Douglas Gresham *Lenten Lands: My Childhood with Joy Davidman and C.S.Lewis* (London: Collins 1988)

Douglas Gresham, *Jack's Life: The Life Story of C.S.Lewis* (Nashville TN: Broadman and Holman 2005)

Alan Jacobs, *The Narnian: The Life and Imagination of C. S. Lewis* (HarperOne 2008)

Clyde Kilby and Marjorie Lamp Mead (eds.) *Brothers & Friends: the Diaries of Major Warren Hamilton Lewis* (San Francisco: Harper and Row 1982)

Alister McGrath, *C. S. Lewis—A Life: Eccentric Genius, Reluctant Prophet* (Tyndale Press 2013)

George Sayer, *Jack: A Life of C.S.Lewis* (New York: Harper & Row 1988; Wheaton IL: Crossway Books, 1994)

A.N.Wilson, *C.S.Lewis: A Biography* (London: Collins 1990)

Philip Zaleski and Carol Zaleski, *The Fellowship: The Literary Lives of the Inklings: J.R.R. Tolkien, C. S. Lewis, Owen Barfield, Charles Williams* (New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux 2015)

3. Books about C.S.Lewis

John Beversluis *C.S.Lewis and the Search for Rational Religion* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans 1985)

John P. Bowen *The Spirituality of Narnia: The Deeper Magic of C.S.Lewis* (Vancouver: Regent College Publishing 2007)

Corbin Scott Carnell, *Bright Shadow of Reality: Spiritual Longing in C.S.Lewis* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans 1974)

David C. Downing *Into the Region of Awe: Mysticism in C. S. Lewis* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press 2005)

Walter Hooper, *Past Watchful Dragons: The Narnian Chronicles of C.S.Lewis* (New York: Collier Books 1971)

Thomas Howard *Narnia and Beyond: A Guide to the Fiction of C.S.Lewis* (San Francisco: Ignatius 1987, 2006)

Peter Kreeft *C.S. Lewis for the Third Millennium: Six Essays on the Abolition of Man* (San Francisco: Ignatius 1994)

George Marsden, *C.S. Lewis's "Mere Christianity": A Biography* (Princeton University Press 2016)

Alister McGrath, *The Intellectual World of C. S. Lewis* (Oxford: Wiley Blackwell 2013)

Robert McSwain and Michael Ward, *The Cambridge Companion to C.S. Lewis* (Cambridge University Press 2010)

Angus J.L. Menuge (ed) *C.S. Lewis: Lightbearer in the Shadowlands: The Evangelistic Visions of C.S. Lewis*, (Wheaton: Crossway Books 1997)

David Mills ed. *The Pilgrim's Guide: C.S. Lewis and the Art of Witness* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans 1998)

Armand M. Nicholi *The Question Of God: C.S. Lewis And Sigmund Freud Debate God, Love, Sex And The Meaning Of Life* (New York: Simon and Schuster 2003)

Leanne Payne, *Real Presence: The Holy Spirit in the Works of C.S. Lewis* (Westchester IL: Crossway Books, 1979)

Victor Reppert *C.S. Lewis's Dangerous Idea: In Defense of the Argument from Reason* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press 2003)

Jeffrey D. Schultz and John G. West Jr. (eds.) *The C.S. Lewis Readers' Encyclopedia*, (Grand Rapids: Zondervan 1998)

Will Vaus *Mere Theology: A Guide to the Thought of C.S. Lewis* (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press 2004)

Michael Ward, *Planet Narnia: The Seven Heavens in the Imagination of C. S. Lewis* (Oxford: Oxford University Press 2008)

Rowan Williams, *The Lion's World* (Oxford University Press 2012)

4. Related writings

Humphrey Carpenter, *J.R.R. Tolkien: A Biography* (London: Allen and Unwin 1978)

G.K.Chesterton, *The Everlasting Man* (London: Dodd, Mead and Company 1925)

G.K.Chesterton, *Orthodoxy* (1908; Shaw 1994) This can also be downloaded free of charge from various websites.

George MacDonald, *Phantastes* (1858; Grand Rapids: Eerdmans 2000)

E. Nesbit, *The Story of the Treasure Seekers* (1899; London: Penguin Books 1958)

J.R.R. Tolkien, *Tree and Leaf* (George Allen and Unwin 1968)