

The Hobbit For Middle Schoolers

Fall/2022
Fridays at 11am EST

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Office Hours: by appointment

I. Rationale:

This class is created to help students develop critical reading skills while making thoughtful connections with the text. The class is intended to help students develop a love for classic literature.

II. Course Aims and Outcomes:

A. Aims

This course will help students think critically, become a better reader and writer as well as working as a team to better understand the text.

A. Specific Learning Outcomes

By the end of this course, students will:

- Have a greater understanding of the life of JRR Tolkien- this will be demonstrated through class discussion and completed project assignments presented in class.
- Exhibit comprehension of the text, The Hobbit- this will be demonstrated through class discussion and completion of comprehension questions assigned for homework. Students will also be presenting a semester-long project that demonstrates their understanding of the text.
- Be able to make life connections with the text, The Hobbit- this will be demonstrated through class discussion, various writing activities as well as artistic displays such as paintings, drawings, song writing, etc.
- Be able to understand and apply elements of good reading and writing skills such as the use of adjectives, personification, onomatopoeia, sequence of events, prediction, idioms, rhyme, mood, homographs, etc.- this will be demonstrated through classroom discussion and completion of assigned homework.

III. Format and Procedures:

This course is strongly dependent on classroom discussion. In order to have productive classroom discussion students will need to have completed the weekly assignment for reading and answering questions. Students are expected to be respectful of the opinions and work shared by other classmates. After orientation week, there will be a week of lectures and the remainder of the classes will be mostly class discussion.

IV. My Assumptions

I recognize that each student will have different reading and writing skills. My goal is for each student to develop an appreciation for *The Hobbit* and be able to demonstrate their understanding to the best of their abilities.

V. Course Requirements:

1. Prerequisites: Students will need to have strong reading skills. Some chapters are quite lengthy and will require a good amount of time to be read
2. Class attendance and participation policy: Please make every effort to attend every class. If you have a special circumstance, please contact me before class to inform me of your absence. Persistent absences will negatively impact your grade in the class. We attempt to record all Zoom meetings to make them available for students who are absent, but we are unable to promise that 100% of meetings will get successfully recorded and posted. The recorded classes, while not as useful as live interaction, are made available for enrolled students to review when absent. If you are absent, it is your responsibility to review the videos, read posted assignments, and keep up with deadlines.
3. Course readings:
 - (a) Required text(s): *The Hobbit* by JRR Tolkien, access to the movie *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*.
 - (b) Class discussion questions will be assigned in advance. Students will need to print and complete the assignments and have them ready for class discussion.

VI. Expectations for Parents

- Set aside a calm, quiet, distraction-free space for your child(ren) to work every day.
- Ensure virtual learning equipment is available and charged.
- Establish routines and expectations and a basic schedule for completing classwork.
- Help students ‘own’ their learning.
- Check Edmodo for communications from teachers and help students print off resources that are provided.
- Stay abreast of teacher feedback in the form of grades or other messages.
- Proctor tests, quizzes, or other assessments as scheduled by the teacher. Parents ensure academic integrity because they are on the “live” side of the screen.
- Communicate with teachers regularly via email or Edmodo regarding any questions or issues that arise.
- If your child is having trouble completing work, email teachers to schedule a time for an online meeting.

VII. Grading Procedures

Grades will be weighted on the following scale:

- (a) 50% class participation
- (b) 25% homework
- (c) 25% final project

VIII. Academic Integrity

Each student in this course is expected to abide by the Cornell University Code of Academic Integrity. Any work submitted by a student in this course for academic credit will be the student's own work. [Optional: For this course, collaboration is allowed in the following instances: list instances.]

You are encouraged to study together and to discuss information and concepts covered in lecture and the sections with other students. One great way to assess what you know is to teach the idea to a peer! You may also work together on problem sets and give "consulting" help to or receive "consulting" help from your peers. However, this permissible cooperation should never involve one student having possession of a copy of all or part of work done by someone else, in any form (e.g. email, Word doc, Box file, Google sheet, or a hard copy). Assignments that have been previously submitted in another course may not be submitted for this course.

Should copying occur, both the student who copied work from another student and the student who gave material to be copied will both automatically receive a zero for the assignment. Penalty for violation of this Code can also be extended to include failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

During examinations, you must do your own work. Talking or discussion is not permitted during the examinations, nor may you compare papers, copy from others, or collaborate in any way. Any collaborative behavior during the examinations will result in failure of the exam and may lead to failure of the course and University disciplinary action.

IX. Tentative Course Schedule

Orientation Week

Week 1- Introduction to JRR Tolkien

Week 2- Sharing Tolkien projects

Week 3- Discuss chapter 1

Week 4- Discuss chapter 2 & 3

Week 5- Discuss chapter 4 & 5

Week 6- Discuss chapter 6 & 7

Week 7- Discuss chapter 8 & 9

Week 8- Discuss chapter 10 & 11

Week 9- Discuss chapter 12 & 13

Week 10- Discuss chapter 14 & 15

Week 11- Discuss chapter 16 & 17

Week 12- Discuss chapter 18 & 19

Week 13- Project planning

Week 14- Project sharing

Week 15- Project sharing

Week 16- Hobbit movie review