

ENGS 040: Tolkien and Film
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Description

This course interrogates the cinematic adaptations to J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Hobbit*. We'll look closely at texts by Peter Jackson, Ralph Bakshi, and Jules Bass and compare passages from the novel with scenes from the films. Scholarship on film theory and on Tolkien's legendarium will deepen and enrich our investigations. Students will be expected to bring Tolkien's texts to class in order to make comparisons, but we won't be reading this formally. Students should watch the films in their entirety before the term.

Course Primary Texts

Two sets of these DVDs will be on hold at the media library in BH and available for viewing:
Jackson, Peter. *The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey*. Extended edition.

- . *The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug*. Extended edition.
- . *The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies*. Extended edition.
- . *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring*. Extended edition.
- . *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers*. Extended edition.
- . *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King*. Extended edition.

These texts are required. Any edition will do. The texts are at the UVM bookstore:

Bogstad and Kaveny. *Picturing Tolkien*. 0786446366

Tolkien, J.R.R. *The Hobbit*

---. *The Lord of the Rings*

Work Required

1. 3 to 5 -page paper (20% Evaluated based on Ideas, Organization, Support, Style, and Mechanics) (Late penalty)
2. Class Participation (40%) (**3 unexcused absences = lowered grade. 5 = NO CREDIT**)
3. 8 to 10 -page term paper (40% requires bibliography and summary) MLA style. See <https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/02/>

Literature and Literary Criticism

We will explore reading strategies. We will pay attention to Tolkien's style, his use of high and low diction, metaphor, imagery, setting, and point of view. Moreover, we will examine the artistic, philological, philosophical, and sociological influences on and impacts made by his legendarium.

Schedule

Class Dates	Lecture	Literary Texts	Cinematic Texts (Scenes)	Secondary Texts	Assignments
Week One: January 17 th *** January 19 th *** January 21 st	No Class *** Intro. Bio. History of Middle-earth *** Medievalisms and Tone	*** “The Hoard” *** “On Fairy Stories”	*** Selections *** Rankin/Bass <i>The Hobbit</i>	*** Flieger’s “Sometimes One Word”	
Week Two: January 24 th January 26 th January 28 th	Treasure’s Seduction Dwarven Refugees	“Beowulf: Monsters and the Critics” <i>The Hobbit</i> “Unexpected Party”	Rankin/Bass <i>The Hobbit</i> Jackson’s <i>Unexpected Journey</i> (5-8)	Oziewicz’s “Peter Jackson’s <i>The Hobbit</i> ” (BB) Cahir’s “The Language of Film”	
Week Three: January 31 st February 2 nd	Elves!! Pity of Bilbo	<i>The Hobbit</i> “A Short Rest” “Riddles in the Dark”	<i>Unexpected Journey</i> (17-19) (31-32)	Riga’s “From Children’s Book to Epic Sequel”	

February 4 th				(BB)	
Week Four: February 7 th	Elf and Mortal Union	<i>Quest of Erebor</i>	<i>Desolation of Smaug</i> (11-14, 21, 40)		
February 9 th	War of Orcs and Dwarves	<i>The Hobbit</i> (Selections)			
February 11 th					
Week Five: February 14 th	“Green Great Dragons”	<i>The Hobbit</i> “Inside Information”	<i>Desolation of Smaug</i> (26, 30, 34,35)		
February 16 th	One Ring				
February 18 th			<i>(Desolation, 5,6,8)</i>		
Week Six: February 21 st	No Class ***				
February 23 rd	Necromancer of Dol Guldor	<i>The Hobbit</i> (Selections)	<i>Battle of Five Armies (3, 9)</i> (11, 13, 16, 26- 28)		
February 25 th	Thorin’s Madness				
Week Seven: February 28 th	The Istari	<i>The Hobbit</i> (Selections)	<i>Battle of Five Armies</i> (Scenes)	Kisor’s “Making the Connection”	

<p>***</p> <p>March 2nd</p> <p>March 4th</p> <p>***</p> <p>Spring Break March 7 – 11th</p>	<p>Funerals/ Laments</p>		<p>(<i>Battle</i>, 42)</p>		
<p>Week Eight:</p> <p>March 14th</p> <p>March 16th</p> <p>***</p> <p>March 18th</p>	<p>The One Ring</p> <p>Where's Bombadil?</p>	<p>LotR</p> <p>“Shadow of the Past”</p> <p>“Old Forest”</p> <p>“House of Bombadil”</p>	<p><i>Fellowship of the Ring</i> (7, 8, 19, 24, 26, 37, 44, 45)</p>	<p>Thompson's “Gollum Talks to Himself”</p>	<p>3 to 5-page paper due.</p>
<p>Week Nine:</p> <p>March 21st</p> <p>March 23rd</p> <p>March 25th</p>	<p>Balrog / Moria</p> <p>Dwarven Halls</p> <p>The Sublime</p>	<p>LotR</p> <p>“Journey in the Dark”</p> <p>“Bridge of Khazad Dûm</p> <p>“Mirror of Galadriel”</p> <p>“The Great River”</p>	<p><i>Fellowship of the Ring</i> (33-36)</p> <p><i>Two Towers</i> (Intro scene)</p> <p>(37-39, 42)</p>	<p>Ricke and Barnett's “Filming the Numenous”</p>	

<p>Week Ten: March 28th</p> <p>March 30th</p> <p>April 1st</p> <p>Tolkien at UVM conference</p>	<p>Uruk-hai</p> <p>Aragorn and Arwen</p>	<p>LotR “Uruk-hai”</p> <p>“Appendix A”</p>	<p><i>Two Towers</i> (4, 10)</p> <p>(23, 37, 38)</p>	<p>West’s “Neither the Shadow nor the Twilight”</p>	
<p>Week Eleven April 4th</p> <p>April 6th</p> <p>April 8th</p>	<p>Faramir Debacle</p> <p>Gollum’s Voices</p>	<p>LotR “Herbs and Stewed Rabbit”</p> <p>“Window on the West”</p> <p>“Passage of the Marshes”</p>	<p><i>Two Towers</i> (40-42)</p> <p><i>Two Towers</i> (14, 29)</p>	<p>Drout’s “The Rohirrim”</p> <p>Fuchs’ “Wicked, Tricky, False”</p>	
<p>Week Twelve: April 11th</p> <p>April 13th</p> <p>April 15th</p>	<p>Mount Doom And Sauron</p> <p>Sam and Frodo (and Rosie)</p>	<p>LotR “Mount Doom”</p>	<p><i>Return of the King</i> (8, 63, 66, 68, 70, 71)</p> <p><i>Fellowship</i> (45,46, 62)</p>	<p>Jane Chance. “Company of Orcs” (BB)</p>	

<p>Week Thirteen</p> <p>April 18th</p> <p>April 20th</p> <p>April 22nd</p>	<p>Aragorn (Lover & King of Dead)</p>	<p>“Passing of the Grey company”</p> <p>“The Last Debate”</p>	<p><i>Return of the King</i> (33, 35, 37)</p>	<p>Croft’s “Jackson’s Aragorn”</p>	
<p>Week Fourteen:</p> <p>April 25th</p> <p>April 27th</p> <p>April 29th</p>	<p>Grey Havens</p>	<p>“Grey Havens”</p>	<p><i>(Return of the King 76,77)</i></p>		
<p>Week Fifteen:</p> <p>May 2nd</p> <p>May 4th</p> <p>May 6th</p>	<p>Tolkien (Biopic)</p>		<p><i>Tolkien</i></p>		<p>8 to 10-page term papers due</p>