

Instructor: Marie H. Loughlin, PhD

Course Description:

This course will explore *The Hobbit* (1937) and *The Lord of the Rings* both in the immediate contexts of their writing and publication, and in Peter Jackson's cinematic adaptations: 'The Lord of the Rings' (film trilogy, 2001–2003) and 'The Hobbit' (film trilogy, 2012–2014). We will consider Tolkien's works in contexts ranging from Tolkien's sources—in earlier fairy tale, folk, and fantasy narratives, Anglo Saxon and medieval literature, quest romance, and the epic—to the construction of what he himself called his “sub-creation” (his ‘secondary [fictional] world’) to contemporary debates about the works’ engagement with war, fascism, race, ‘otherness,’ gender, power, memory, and death.

Tentative Reading List:

NB: The total length of the novels we are going to read is 1,768 pages. Even if you have read *The Hobbit* and *The Lord of the Rings* before, and especially if you have never read them, it's crucial to get started reading over the summer. The editions below are those that I will order for the course, but any edition is satisfactory, although there will be minor difference between them.

The films (even in their cinematic versions) are also a huge investment of time; if you watch these ahead of time, be sure to make some notes on the distinctions you notice between film and novel.

Required Reading and Viewing: ENGL 394B AND ENGL 395I:

Novels

- Tolkien, J. R. R. *The Hobbit* (revised edition, 1951; HarperCollins, 2011).
- . *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* (1954; HarperCollins, 2007).
- . *The Lord of the Rings: The Two Towers* (1954; HarperCollins, 2007): 464 pp.
- . *The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King* (1955; HarperCollins, 2011): 373 pp.

Short Stories (fanfiction):

- esama. “Garden in Dol Guldur.” Published: 2016-02-15. *Archive of Our Own*.
- . “Elf in Dol Guldur.” Published: 2017-04-26. *Archive of Our Own*.

Films:

- Peter Jackson's 'The Lord of the Rings' Trilogy, cinematic versions, 2001-2003
- Peter Jackson's 'The Hobbit' Trilogy, cinematic versions, 2012-2014.

Required Reading: ENGL 394B ONLY:

Selected critical essays (extracts only)

Other: Registration: If you are an ENGL major, honours, combined major, minor or concentration student, you must register in ENGL 394B; if you are in any other degree program and are taking this course as a general upper-level elective credit, you should register in ENGL 395I. **Assignments:** 1 short scene analysis (film analysis); 4 reading quizzes; 1 research essay; 1 public scholarship project; 1 final exam. There is no midterm. **Public Research Project:** For more information about the public research project, see my UBCblog site on and after June 10th: *The Material Cultures of Middle-earth* at <https://blogs.ubc.ca/middleearthmaterialcultures/>