Mythopoëia and the Secret Fire: Inhabiting the Lives of Tolkien’s Middle-Earth
The Honors College, Florida International University
IDH 2003 – Fall 2015
Tuesdays & Thursdays: 9:30 – 10:45 AM

Classrooms and Professor Contacts
Lecture/large-group classes GC 280

Ruben Garrote
Office hours by apt., DM 246; garroter@fiu.edu; (305) 348-1620

Adam Gorelick
Office hours: Tue. 11am-1pm, or by apt., DM 224; agorelic@fiu.edu; (305) 348-4100

Janet McDaniel
Office hours by apt., DM 233; jmcdanie@fiu.edu; (305) 348-4100

Required Texts
You are responsible for reading the following works by J.R.R. Tolkien:


- “Smith of Wootton Major”, in Smith of Wootton Major and Farmer Giles of Ham (Del Rey, 1986) | ISBN 978-0345336064

- The Silmarillion (Del Rey, 1985) | ISBN 978-0345325815

  (N.B.— This ISBN is for the four-book boxed edition containing The Lord of the Rings. As you will need The Lord of the Rings for the spring semester, we recommend that you purchase the boxed set now.)

Attendance and Classroom Etiquette
Class attendance is an important component of your grade. You will be allowed one unexcused absence or one unexcused instance of tardiness, no questions asked, with no penalty. Note well: this is one absence OR one lateness, not one of each (the logical OR function, not the logical AND function). Any additional absence will incur a 12-point penalty per occurrence. Additional lateness occurrences are penalized as follows; 0-5 minutes = no penalty, 5-20 minutes = 6 points, >20 minutes = 12 points. If you notify your professor BEFORE class, these penalties may be excused for emergency situations at the discretion of the professor. If you do not notify the professor before class, there is no possibility of waiving the penalty. Since professors will only consider waiving the penalty for extreme emergencies, we suggest that you save your one excused absence until the end of the semester.

N.B. Although the one unexcused absence will not affect your class participation grade, there will be no makeups for any missed quizzes. You have to be in class or you will receive a zero for the quiz. The use of laptops, cellular phones, or any other device for voice or text communication is prohibited for the
duration of the class. YOU MUST TURN OFF AND PUT AWAY ALL ELECTRONIC DEVICES AT THE BEGINNING OF CLASS (this includes Smart Watches).

Course Requirements
Please take the time to read through the description of each course requirement. If you have any questions, talk to us early in the semester.

Class Participation (15%) Class participation means active participation. Merely showing up for attendance does not constitute an A in class participation. Points will be deducted if you are engaged in work for another class while this class is in session.

Quizzes: (10 %)
There will be periodic pop quizzes throughout the semester at the beginning of class lasting approximately 10 -15 min. You may use your class notes for the quizzes but you may NOT use any electronic devices and you may not speak to classmates during the duration of the quiz. Violation of these rules will result in a zero. Additionally, if you are late to class, you may not make up the quiz.

Literary Analysis Essay (25%)
Proposal Due 9/8 (hard copy)
Essay Due 9/24 (end of day submit through turnitin on Blackboard)

The paper is intended to allow you to integrate the introductory material and to apply it in a creative way. You will choose a faërie story (not assigned in the course) and write an analysis relying on the categories outlined by Tolkien in “On Faërie-Stories” and “Mythopoëia”. Your choice need not be limited to traditional stories. There are plenty of examples in contemporary literature and film. The paper length should be 5-7 double-spaced pages, size 12, Times New Roman font. Remember to cite all works consulted and provide a bibliography if needed.

Visual Analysis Essay (25%)
Essay Proposal Due 11/21 (end of the day, submit on Blackboard)
Essay Due 12/5 (end of day submit through turnitin on Blackboard)

For this assignment you will choose a set of illustrations from ONE Single* foreign edition of The Hobbit and compose an essay (min. 1500 max. 2500 words) with appropriate academic sources analyzing the images within their historical and cultural context. Expanded directions and additional resources posted on Blackboard. http://pblancho.free.fr/

*With Instructor permission, you may use two separate editions with a clear thematic comparative element: for example, pre and post-Soviet Russian editions.

Text as City: The Silmarillion Infographic (25%)
Proposal Due 10/15
Due Date 11/7

You will work in groups of 3 to create a digital infographic illustrating The Silmarillion. An infographic is a detailed, visually attractive representation of information, data or knowledge intended to present
information quickly and clearly. A proposal for your group’s infographic must be approved by the instructor. The proposal must outline an action plan of tasks to be completed by each group member. Each project must include the following components:

1. Cartography
2. Linguistics
3. Quantitative Data
4. Visual Artistry

We will go over examples of infographics in class, and topics can focus on regions, cities, journeys, or any other compelling theme that ties the components together.

**Guidelines for Written Work**

All written work must consistently adhere to Kate L. Turabian's *Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition. For more information, please visit this source: Turabian. **Students are advised to carefully proofread all papers before submitting them.** All students are encouraged to take advantage of the University resources for writing to be found in the Center for Excellence in Writing, a full-service writing center providing writing assistance and feedback to university students, from first year students to PhD candidates. Thus Center is particularly helpful to those seeking to polish their writing skills. Center offices are located in GL 120 (MMC), Glen Hubert Library, First Floor (BBC), and EC 2780 at the Engineering Center. For more information, go to [http://writingcenter.fiu.edu/](http://writingcenter.fiu.edu/).


**Format** All written work must include your name, Panther ID number, course number and the name of the professor on the title page.

- Title Page Name
- Panther ID, course number, name of your professor
- Double spaced, 1-inch margins (top, bottom, left and right)
- 12 point font, Times New Roman

**Grading Scale**

Grades are based on accumulated points, 100 in total

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 – 100</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>91 – 92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 – 90</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>84 – 86</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>81 – 83</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 – 80</td>
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<td>C</td>
<td>74 – 76</td>
<td>C-</td>
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<td>D+</td>
<td>67 – 70</td>
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<td>D-</td>
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70 & below F
Honors Citizenship Requirements

Honors College students are required to accumulate at least 20 citizenship points each academic year (Fall and Spring) by attending Honors College activities. Students attending only one semester (Fall or Spring) are required to accumulate 10 citizenship points. Each activity has a point value. Students may select which events and activities they want to attend. The new system is designed to be more flexible for students, offering events at various days and times (including some weekend events) and allowing for a variety of ways to meet the requirements. Please plan accordingly.

The point value of an event will be noted on emails and flyers when it is promoted. For a general breakdown, see the value table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Point Value</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Colloquium</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Club Meeting</td>
<td>1 (max of 3)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honors Hour</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>HEARTS Event (all types)</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honors College Event – Honors Place</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Honors College Night – Athletics</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other (Specific HC Sponsored Event)</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library Study Room (GL 310A) Visits</td>
<td>10 visits = 1 (max of 1)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

** There will be a few online events to choose from as well.

Because of the added flexibility of the new system, all students must fulfill the annual requirement—no exceptions.

Students must arrive at the activities on time. After 10 minutes, they will be turned away at the door. Students will track their points at [http://myhonors.fiu.edu](http://myhonors.fiu.edu). We encourage students to earn as many points as they can. At the end of each academic year, the top ten point earners will be recognized by appointment to the Dean’s Citizenship List.

Volunteer Hours: As always, Honors College students must also complete 20 volunteer service hours. These hours DO NOT count toward the 20 citizenship points discussed above.

Honors Hours: Honors Hours provide informational sessions, social and entertainment opportunities, and workshops to expand your undergraduate experience. Each Honors Hour session has a 2-point value.

For a full list of Honors Hours for the current semester, go to [http://honors.fiu.edu/events/honorshours/](http://honors.fiu.edu/events/honorshours/)

If you have ideas for Honors Hours workshops you would like to see, email us at [honors@fiu.edu](mailto:honors@fiu.edu).

Colloquia: Every semester we invite Honors College faculty fellows to give presentations on topics of interest.
Each Colloquium has a 3-point value: For a full list of Colloquia for the current semester, go to http://honors.fiu.edu/events/

Community Service (20 Hours of Community Service per Academic Year): An important part of being a member of the Honors College student is demonstrating leadership by serving the extended community. The Honors College service requirement is modest—at least 20 hours per academic year to a non-profit endeavor. There are many ways you can get involved—campus fundraising for non-profit organizations, volunteering for community projects, and so on. If you’re not sure what to do, please contact the Coordinator of Student Programs at 305-348-4100. The Honors College has many community initiatives in which you can participate, particularly with the City of Sweetwater (e.g., tutoring, computer classes for the elderly, citizenship classes, etc).

Documenting your Community Service Hours: To document your community service hours, log on to the MyHonors website.

Honors Education in the ARTS (HEARTS)
The HEARTS program is designed to give Honors College students opportunities to “explore and appreciate different artistic and cultural traditions and modes of artistic expression. HEARTS will also serve as a clearinghouse (and curatorial framework) for our students to experience the arts on campus and in the community by providing them with information about cultural activities and access to performances with free or discounted tickets. See http://honors.fiu.edu/hearts/.

Student Portfolios
The Honors College will be using a portfolio method to assess students’ learning outcomes. The portfolio method allows for maximum flexibility in gauging student learning. You will decide (with instructor consultation) what “artifacts” or assignments to include for consideration in your portfolios to demonstrate successful achievement of each of the student learning outcomes.

Portfolios provide a rich context for students to show what they have learned and to explain their learning process. Because the Honors curriculum is meant to be thought-provoking and reflective, student self-assessment through portfolios will facilitate learning and provide in-depth assessment.

Each Honors College course includes at least one assignment that could potentially fit portfolio requirements.

Academic Misconduct Policy
Registration in this course implies an acceptance of and compliance with the Honors College policies for students and the FIU Code of Academic Integrity. Please refer to the following documents for additional information: FIU Code Code of Academic Integrity. Please refer to the following documents for additional information:

FIU Code of Academic Integrity: http://www.fiu.edu/~dwyere/academicintegrity.html
FIU Honors College Student Handbook: http://honors.fiu.edu/handbook0910.html
FIU Honors College Plagiarism Policy: http://honors.fiu.edu/current_policy_plagiarism.html
General Course Objectives

**Analysis and Transference of Ideas:** Through your engagement in group discussions, and the three major class assignments, you will demonstrate knowledge how an author’s (and illustrator’s) ideological concerns from the Primary World are transferred into the Secondary World.

**Evolution of Ideas:** Throughout the semester, you will analyze the process regarding how ideas change, and evolve as they are transmitted through language, time and space in Tolkien’s secondary world.

**Evolution of Language:** Through your engagement in the Infographic assignment, you will demonstrate an understanding of how language evolves focusing on Tolkien’s constructed linguistics.

Global Learning Objectives
This course has been certified as meeting the university’s Global Learning requirement. Each of this semester’s three main assignments will contribute to the satisfaction of the Honors College Global Learning Objectives.

**Global Awareness:** Students will be able to demonstrate knowledge of the interrelatedness of local, global, international, and intercultural issues, trends, and systems. In particular, students will demonstrate awareness of the cultural transmission of stories and storytelling, define the type of folktale which Tolkien called fairy-story, and explore the literary effect of encountering otherness. Tolkien described three aspects of the storytelling process: inheritance (borrowing through time), diffusion (borrowing through space), and most importantly, individual authorial invention. His theories of myth and story open a door into global awareness not only by retracing cultural transmissions but also by highlighting the psychological effect of encountering otherness in literature. By way of a Literary Analysis Essay, students will demonstrate their understanding of Tolkien’s ideas and their ability to apply his theories of myth and tale in an analytical way to works by other artists.

**Global Perspective:** Through engagement in the Visual Analysis Paper, students will analyze the multiple causal forces that shape the perspectives of historical individuals — economic, political, sociological, technological, cultural, etc.—and how these perspectives shape diverse thinking of multiple figures in diverse cultural contexts. This includes in-class discussions and analysis of illustrations in their cultural context.

**Global Engagement:** Students will demonstrate willingness to engage in local, global, international, and intercultural exchange by entering the space of the fictional or secondary world created by Tolkien in *The Silmarillion*. They will accomplish this by way of primary or real-word analogues and materials and by utilizing the text to employ cartographic, linguistic, quantitative, and artistic data to produce a compelling and professional digital infographic.

**Global Learning Co-curricular Activity:** You will perform at least twenty hours of Community
Service per academic year either through the Honors College service partnerships (Sweetwater, Overtown Youth Center, etc.) or through other community service projects and/or events. If you want to apply this service to your graduation portfolio, be sure to document your hours.

**Religious Observances**
Every effort will be made, where feasible and practical, to accommodate students whose religious practices coincide with class requirements or scheduling. Please make sure to notify your instructor *at the beginning of the semester* of which dates you will be absent or any anticipated problems with completing course work.

**Physical, Mental and Sensory Challenges**
Every effort will be made, where feasible and practical, to accommodate students who are so challenged. Should you require accommodations, contact the Disability Resource Center, if you have not done so already.

**Last day to DROP class without a penalty: 8/31.**

**Class Schedule**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8/25</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>Class Overview and Introduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>8/27</td>
<td>Th</td>
<td>“On Faerie Stories,” and “Mythopoëia”</td>
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<tr>
<td>9/1</td>
<td>T</td>
<td>“On Faerie Stories,” and “Leaf by Niggle”</td>
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<td>9/3</td>
<td>Th</td>
<td>“On Faerie Stories,” and “Smith of Wooten Major”</td>
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<td>9/8</td>
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<td>“Ainulindalë,” and “Valaquenta”</td>
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<td>9/10</td>
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<td>“Quenta Silmarillion,” Chapters 1-2</td>
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<td>9/15</td>
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<td>“Quenta Silmarillion,” Chapters 3-4</td>
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<td>“Quenta Silmarillion,” Chapters 7-8</td>
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<td>“Quenta Silmarillion,” Chapters 9-11</td>
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<td>“Quenta Silmarillion,” Chapters 12-13</td>
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<td>“Quenta Silmarillion,” Chapter 14</td>
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<td>“Quenta Silmarillion,” Chapters 17-18</td>
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<td>“Quenta Silmarillion,” Chapter 19</td>
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<td>10/15</td>
<td>Th</td>
<td>“Quenta Silmarillion,” Chapters 20</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
10/20  T  “Quenta Silmarillion,” Chapters 21
10/22  Th  “Quenta Silmarillion,” Chapters 22-24
10/27  T  “Akalabeth”
10/29  Th  “On the Rings of Power and the Third Age” and LotR, Appendix A (minus Aragorn and Arwen)

11/3  T  The Hobbit, Chapter 1-3
11/5  Th  The Hobbit, Chapters 4-6
11/10  T  The Hobbit, Chapters 7-8
11/12  Th  The Hobbit, Chapters 9-10
11/17  T  The Hobbit, Chapters 11-13
11/19

11/24  T  No Class
1126  Th  Thanksgiving Holiday

12/1  T  The Hobbit, Chapters 14-17
12/3  Th  The Hobbit, Chapters 18-19

Final Exam Week TBA