

Dr. Anna Smol

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Hours: drop in Tuesdays or Thursdays 1:15-2:00; or at other times by appointment

Essay #3: Research Paper

Your general topic is to explore Tolkien's *The Fellowship of the Ring* in the context of World War One writing. Your specific task will be to compare an aspect of *The Fellowship of the Ring* with *two* World War One poems. One of the poems should be from the list that we have covered in class (available on Moodle), and one should be a poem that you select yourself from our text, the *Penguin Book of First World War Poetry*.

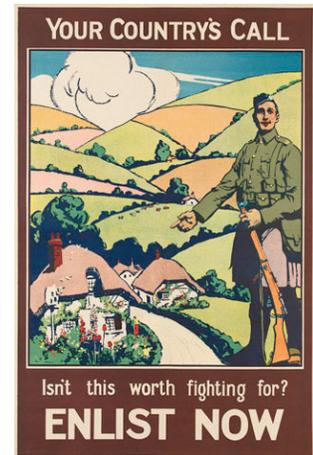
Select one of these themes for your essay:

- heroism
- the pastoral (and anti-pastoral)
- oral traditions
- physical and/or psychological wounding

As this is a research paper, you will have to incorporate secondary sources into your reading of the texts. You will need to have two scholarly (i.e. peer-reviewed) secondary sources that have something interesting or informative to say on your topic. For our first source, we will all be using John Garth's article, "Frodo and the Great War," so that we can all discuss at least one article together as we practice reading scholarly prose, incorporating it into our essays, and citing it correctly. This article will be available from the reserve desk in the Library. The second article will be one that you find on your own; it can be about Tolkien, his fiction, WWI poetry, or on the poets you have chosen for discussion. There are many different ways in which you can use secondary sources in this essay, and we will discuss these options in class. I will also illustrate how to research effectively.

Make sure that the sources you use are scholarly ones. *Wikipedia* does not count as a scholarly source (though you may use it as a starting-off point for research); if you do use it, remember to cite it. Websites have to be carefully evaluated to see if they are suitable. Use the Mount Library's guidelines; links are posted on our course Moodle site. I will also discuss in class how to evaluate your sources.

Keep in mind the guidelines for correct citation of quotations, facts, and information -- even when paraphrased -- in order to avoid plagiarism. All sources must be documented correctly according to MLA style, which will be explained in class and can be found online and in various handbooks. Failure to represent a source correctly will result in a charge of plagiarism, which carries severe penalties. We will do some exercises in class to remind you of these requirements.



poster from the Imperial War Museum, UK.
Catalogue: Art.IWM PST

Stage One: article review, worth 5% of the final grade for the course

To help you get started on your

research, you will be asked to hand in some preliminary work on the article that we are all using in common, John Garth's "Frodo and the Great War." Write out Garth's thesis in your own words and then outline the main points supporting that thesis in your own words. After you outline the essay, write one paragraph in which you explain how you could use this source in your essay. Include an MLA citation for this essay as it will appear in your Works Cited list.

Criteria for evaluation:

- correct MLA citation for the Works Cited list
- accurate outline of the thesis and main points in your own words
- clear explanation in one paragraph of how you can use this source in your essay
- correct grammar, spelling, punctuation

Assignment goals:

- to practice reading scholarly texts with deep attention
- to enhance awareness of an essay's thesis and main points
- to encourage you to think of how to use the article in your own work (and get a good start on your own paper)
- to practice correct MLA citation

Due: March 27

Stage Two: research paper, worth 15% of the final grade for the course

This last assignment is

your opportunity to demonstrate all that you've learned about essay drafting, revision, and editing this semester as well as to practice some new research skills.

Length: approximately 1500 words **Due: April 8**

Criteria for evaluation:

- a precisely defined thesis, supported by relevant, interesting points
- adequate references to the texts to support the thesis
- coherent, well-developed, well-organized paragraphs
- correct documentation of all sources using MLA style
- an ability to discuss significant features of the texts using the terminology of literary analysis
- appropriate use of two scholarly secondary sources to advance the argument presented in the paper
- appropriate choice of World War One poems according to the criteria explained above
- correct grammar, spelling, and punctuation

Regulations on plagiarism and cheating will be strictly enforced.

Assignment goals:

- to deepen your understanding of several literary texts
- to practice research skills in searching for secondary sources
- to practice reading academic prose in secondary sources
- to practice incorporating secondary sources into your own argument
- to reinforce and improve your ability to write a good literary analysis of different genres