

Tolkien  
Judy Ann Ford & Robin Anne Reid  
Fall 2008  
History Department and Department of Literature and Languages  
Graduate Special Topics Online Course: English 597 and History 597  
Texas A&M University-Commerce  
Judy.Ford@tamuc.edu      Robin.Reid@tamuc.edu

**Paper**  
**Topic Paragraph & Working Bibliography 5%**  
**Paper: 25%**

Each student will write an original thesis-driven paper. The paper's minimum length is thirteen to fifteen pages, excluding the works cited and title pages. The paper must draw upon a minimum of five to seven secondary sources. Three of the secondary sources must be researched by the student; the rest must be those assigned in class.

The paper will focus on an aspect of adaptation. Students will choose an element of J. R. R. Tolkien's novel and analyze how it is adapted from medieval or modern culture or literature. The paper will be interdisciplinary in focus. The use of the film is optional

Students may focus on one of the following topic: 1) how some element of the novel is adapted from some aspect of medieval literature or culture, or upon Tolkien's experiences such as his participation in World War I; or 2) how the element of the novel was used within Jackson's film [students may consider not only how the scene was adapted but, if appropriate, how it was not used in the film and the effects]; or 3) both how an element of the novel draws upon some aspect of literature or culture and how it was used within Jackson's film.

Given the length and complexity of the novel as well as the film, we suggest that you choose a narrow element in order to consider it in depth. The paper will be an analysis, not an evaluation. In other words, the paper will consider the "what, how, and why" of the adaptation and will not judge its effectiveness or express personal approval or disapproval. Please use either the MLA or Turabian style manual.

Students will submit a topic paragraph and working bibliography in Week 9 (October 26). The paragraph must be specific about the chosen element and the specific aspect of adaptation on which the paper will focus. The works cited will consist of at least five secondary sources being considered for the paper and must be appropriate to the topic.

Before students write their papers, their topic must be approved.

Students have the option of turning in a rough draft for feedback Week 13 (November 23). That draft is not graded.