

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](mailto:Robin.Reid@tamuc.edu)

### **Reflection Journal Assignment**

Your reflection journal is worth 35% of your total class grade. There are four journal assignments. Each journal entry should be approximately 500 words long.

Due Dates:

Week 4 September 21

Week 7 October 12

Week 10 November 2

Week 13 November 23

Access your Journal through the Dropbox Tab. The journal link is on the right as you look at your monitor screen.

Your journal should reflect/synthesize what you have learned since the beginning of class and begin to explore how you will use the material, methods, or theories covered in class for your own scholarship.

We will read and grade each journal assignment throughout the term.

Some additional information added after grading Journal #1:

We see the Reading Journals as a bridge between the discussions (which come weekly) and the paper. The journal prompt is more open than the weekly discussions because we want to give you a chance to focus on what is important to you and to your project (and perhaps other elements of your scholarship). But we expect your journal entries to show us you have paid attention to the assigned work in class, from lectures, to reading, to class discussions, and that you are able to show critical engagement, at some length, in your postings and journal assignments. (Critical engagement does not require agreement but can include reasoned disagreement, a sort of "yes, but" approach).

We began with the secondary readings to give students, especially those who had not read Tolkien or seen the film before, a framework of arguments and interpretations about the text. We expect you to read LOTR and watch the film with the various arguments in mind, thinking about how you could contribute to the scholarly discussion through your adaptation analysis paper.