

ENGL4813-01
Studies in Tolkien – undergraduate, senior level
Paper topics
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Language and Literature
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Below is a list of possible paper topics for your research paper in the course. Please note that ALL topics below are quite general and require diligent narrowing and focusing before you can arrive at a strong research claim. Once you sign up for a topic, search, read, and research BROADLY, and do not neglect socio-cultural, historical, theoretical, and philosophical sources that might ground your paper.

The Inklings

Tolkien's Medieval Roots

Tolkien and the Great War

Maps, Verse, Poetry, Art in Tolkien

Geography, place, space

Tolkien's Creation Myth, Arda Marred, Creation-Fall

Tolkien and Material culture – material objects and their function/purpose

Anthropological studies in Middle-earth

Epic Genre, Epic Hero & The Quest Archetype in LotR

Modernism and Tolkien's place therein

Languages and their function

Tolkien as "green" author

Race in Middle Earth

Immortality, Time

The Nature of Evil in Tolkien

Predestination, Choice

Tolkien's Christian Perspective [theological]

Tolkien's philosophical perspective

The feminine and its absence

Tolkien & pop culture

LotR and the First Age

Christopher Tolkien's History of Middle-earth [13 volumes]

The body as represented in Tolkien's texts

Magic in Arda, Middle-earth, texts

"On Fairy Stories" and Middle-earth

Fantasy form, genre and Tolkien

Landscape, literal-metaphorical-spiritual

Colonial-Imperial perspectives in/on Tolkien

The uncanny in Tolkien – monstrous, alien, other

Words, Memory, History

Animal-human-spirit in Arda

Linguistics-philology and Tolkien

Teaching Tolkien – pedagogical perspectives

Boundaries, borders, membranes, and 'beyond'