

PHIL 255: C.S. Lewis: Faith and Philosophy
Syllabus

COURSE	PHIL 255; Tuesday & Thursday, TIME and ROOM TBD
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INSTRUCTOR	Robert K. Garcia , Ph.D., www.robertkgarcia.com Office hours by appointment in YMCA 419. Office phone: (979) 845-1888
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EMAIL	NOTE: Student email must be sent to profgarcia@tamu.edu <i>Dr. Garcia may not read email sent to another address.</i> Dr. Garcia normally checks email M-F 8am-5pm. Email should be professional in style (see below).
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CATALOG DESCRIPTION	Methods and subject matter of philosophy through the writings of C.S. Lewis; such as reason, science, imagination, faith, problem of evil, atonement, ethics.
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COURSE DESCRIPTION	<p>This course will introduce students to the discipline of philosophy through an exploration of the life and work of C.S. Lewis (1898-1963), one of the most influential writers of the 20th Century. We will consider his views on a number of philosophical topics, including: the relationship(s) among reason, science, imagination, and faith; the evidence and arguments for and against the existence of God; the problem of evil; atonement; the relationship between God and morality; and the nature, value, cosmic significance, and ultimate destiny of human persons. We will focus on important philosophical ideas in Lewis's non-fiction work, with an eye to how those ideas find expression in his fiction. A significant amount of class time will be devoted to discussion. This requires a high degree of preparation and participation</p> <p>Prerequisites: None</p>
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LEARNING OUTCOMES	<p>Course Learning Outcomes: Students who successfully complete this course will be able to (1) identify C. S. Lewis's positions on philosophical topics; (2) interpret, describe, explain and critique the reasoning behind Lewis's views on a number of perennial philosophical issues; (3) evaluate philosophical arguments, propose novel objections, and formulate defenses of philosophical claims; (4) assess the social, political and moral implications of religious commitment.</p> <p>Core Learning Outcomes: This course meets the core curriculum Language, Philosophy, and Culture (KLPC) foundational component area:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Critical Thinking: creative thinking; innovation; inquiry; and analysis, evaluation, and synthesis of information2. Communication: effective development, interpretation and expression of ideas through written, oral, and visual communication3. Social Responsibility: intercultural competence; knowledge of civic responsibility; and the ability to engage effectively in regional, national, and global communities4. Personal Responsibility: ability to connect choices, actions, and consequences to ethical decision-making.
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**NO-DEVICE
POLICY**

1. Class sessions offer key opportunities to extend your learning beyond reading or working on assignments. Thus, it is important that you be fully present and engaged in class discussion. Because there is evidence* that laptops, phones, tablets, and similar devices pose a distraction for you and those around you, I require that you put away and not use such devices during class time. Exceptions will be made upon the recommendation of Disability Services.
* see articles here: <http://www.robertkgarcia.com/resources-for-students/>
2. Dr. Garcia's phone will be on for Code Maroon alerts.

**REQUIRED
READINGS
AND
VIEWINGS**

Works by Lewis:

- *Surprised by Joy*
- *The Problem of Pain*
- *Mere Christianity*
- *A Grief Observed*
- *The Great Divorce*
- *The Weight of Glory* (essay collection)

Works about Lewis:

- *C. S. Lewis -- A Life: Eccentric Genius, Reluctant Prophet*, by A. McGrath
The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe (will be made available through Evans library)

**ACADEMIC
INTEGRITY**

"An Aggie does not lie, cheat or steal, or tolerate those who do." If you violate the code, you may fail the course. See the Aggie Honor Code: <http://aggiehonor.tamu.edu>

**STUDENTS
WITH
DISABILITIES**

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, currently located in the Disability Services building at the Student Services at White Creek complex on west campus or call 979-845-1637. For additional information, visit <http://disability.tamu.edu>.

**TITLE IX
DUTY TO
REPORT**

As a result of Title IX rulings, and as an employee of the State of Texas, I have a duty to report anything you tell me about sexual abuse or sexual violence, even if you ask me not to tell anyone. If you would like to talk to someone who does not have to report your disclosure to the university authorities, please talk with campus mental-health counselors, pastoral counselors, social workers, psychologists, health center employees, or any other person with a professional license requiring confidentiality.

**ASSIGNMENTS
& WEIGHTS**

Final Grade Scale: A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, F=0-59

Quizzes	20 %	unannounced
Exam 1	20%	27-Sept
Exam 2	20%	16-Oct
Short paper	10%	20-Nov
Exam 3	30%	7-Dec 3-5

**ATTENDANCE
POLICY**

There is no separate grade for attendance, but in-class quizzes will be unannounced.

**MAKE-UP
POLICY**

Late work is not accepted without a university-sanctioned excuse. If an absence is excused, the instructor will either provide the student an opportunity to make up any quiz, exam or other work that contributes to the final grade or provide a satisfactory alternative by a date agreed upon by the student and instructor. If the instructor has a regularly scheduled make up exam, students are expected to attend unless they have a university approved excuse. The make-up work must be completed in a timeframe not to exceed 30 calendar days from the last day of the initial absence, or 48 hours before grades are due, whichever comes first. **The reasons absences are considered excused by the university are listed in Student Rule 7 (<http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07>).** The fact that these are university-excused absences does not relieve the student of responsibility for prior notification and documentation. Failure to notify and/or document properly may result in an unexcused absence. Falsification of documentation is a violation of the Honor Code. Other absences may be excused at the discretion of the instructor with prior notification and proper documentation. **In cases where prior notification is not feasible** (e.g., accident or emergency) the student must provide notification by the end of the second working day after the absence, including an explanation of why notice could not be sent prior to the class.

DETAILS ON ASSIGNMENTS

Note: Written work will usually be assessed using the PAPER EVALUATION CRITERIA (on eCampus). Carefully read the Criteria to get a sense for what counts as exemplary work. Be sure that what you turn in represents your best written work – typos and other mechanical problems will significantly hurt your grade.

1. **QUIZZES:** Keep up on the readings and stay engaged during class. Occasionally there will be a quiz to see how well you've understood the readings or to see how well you've understood the lecture or discussion. These quizzes may occur at *any time* during class (at the beginning, middle or end).
Course learning outcomes: 1, 2, 4
Core learning outcomes: 1
2. **SHORT PAPER:** Students will view the film, *The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe*, outside of class. It is available through the library. They will write a 600-800 word paper relating the themes of the course to the film.
Course learning outcomes: 1, 2, 3
Core learning outcomes: 1, 2
3. **EXAMS:** The exams may include true/false, multiple-choice, short-answer, and/or essay questions.
Course learning outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4
Core learning outcomes: 1, 2, 3, 4

Schedule of Readings & Assignments

DATE	TOPIC	THINGS TO READ FOR/BEFORE THAT DATE
30-Aug	Faith and Reason	* "Preface and Chapter 1 to <i>The Screwtape Letters</i> " (eCampus) * "Is Theism Important?" <i>God in the Dock</i> * Book 3 Chapter 2 "The 'Cardinal Virtues'", <i>Mere Christianity</i> * Book 3 Chapter 11 "Faith", <i>Mere Christianity</i>
4-Sep	Faith and Reason	* "Obstinacy in Belief" (eCampus) * "Religion: Reality or Substitute?" (eCampus)
6-Sep	Desire and (Dis)enchantment	* "Satan Speaks" (eCampus) * "Reason" (eCampus) * "Letter to Arthur Greeves, 17 June 1918" (eCampus) * "Talking about Bicycles" (eCampus) * Recommended: <i>Surprised by Joy</i> , pages 1-18.
11-Sep	Naturalism and Bulverism	* "Diary entries of January 18 and 19, 1927" (eCampus) * "Letter to Leo Baker, 14? August 1920" (eCampus) * "On Living in an Atomic Age" (eCampus) * "Bulverism", <i>God in the Dock</i>
13-Sep	Transposition	* "Transposition", <i>The Weight of Glory</i>
18-Sep	Argument from Desire	* "The Weight of Glory", <i>The Weight of Glory</i> * "Preface to George MacDonald: An Anthology"
20-	Theology and Myth	* "Is Theology Poetry?", <i>The Weight of Glory</i>
25-Sep	Theology and Myth	* "Myth Became Fact", <i>God in the Dock</i> * "Letters to Greeves. Oct. 1 and 18, 1931" (eCampus)
27-Sep	1st EXAM	
2-Oct	Objective Morality	* Book 1 Chapters 1-3 of <i>Mere Christianity</i>
4-Oct	Objective Morality	* "The Poison of Subjectivism" (eCampus)
9-Oct	Moral Argument(s) for God	* Book 1 Chapters 4-5 of <i>Mere Christianity</i> * Book 2 Chapter 1 of <i>Mere Christianity</i>
11-Oct	Problem of Evil	<i>Problem of Pain</i> Ch. 1-5
16-Oct	2nd EXAM	
18-Oct	Problem of Evil	<i>Problem of Pain</i> Ch. 6-7
23-	Problem of Evil	<i>A Grief Observed</i>
25-	Eschatology	<i>Problem of Pain</i> Ch. 8, <i>The Great Divorce</i> Ch. 1-5
30-	Eschatology	<i>The Great Divorce</i> Ch. 6-14
1-Nov	Eschatology	<i>Problem of Pain</i> Ch. 10
6-Nov	Trilemma	<i>Mere Christianity</i> (TBA)
8-Nov	Trilemma	<i>Mere Christianity</i> (TBA)
13-Nov	Atonement	<i>Mere Christianity</i> (TBA)
15-Nov	Atonement	<i>Mere Christianity</i> (TBA)
20-Nov	Religious Exclusivism, Inclusivism, and Pluralism SHORT PAPER DUE	TBA
22-	(Thanksgiving Holiday)	
27-	Cosmology	"Dogma and the Universe" <i>God in the Dock</i>
29-	Cosmology	TBA
4-Dec	Wrap Up day	TBA
7-Dec	3rd EXAM: 3-5pm	