

COURSE SYLLABUS
C. S. Lewis, OST620, 2 hours
J. Knox Chamblin, Th.D.
Reformed Theological Seminary, Virtual

Professor

J. Knox Chamblin was Professor of New Testament at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, MS. He earned the B.D. and the Th.M. degrees from Columbia Theological Seminary and the Th.D. degree from Union Theological Seminary. Dr. Chamblin is the author of *Proclaiming the New Testament: Romans and Paul and the Self*, as well as a contributor to *Continuity and Discontinuity* and *The Evangelical Commentary on the Bible*.

Course Description

This course explores and critiques the life, writings, and thought of one of the most gifted and well-known apologists and literary critics of the twentieth century, C. S. Lewis.

Required Textbooks

Sayers, George. *Jack*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 1994.
Lewis, C. S. *The Four Loves*. New York: Harcourt Brace and Company, 1960.
Lewis, C. S. *The Great Divorce*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1974.
Lewis, C. S. *Mere Christianity*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1980.
Lewis, C. S. *Miracles*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1975.
Lewis, C. S. *The Problem of Pain*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 1986.
Lewis, C. S. *Reflections on the Psalms*. New York: Harcourt Brace and Company, 1986.
Lewis, C. S. *Screwtape Letters*. New York: Penguin Putnam Inc., 1988.

All required books are available through the RTS Online Bookstore at <www.rts.edu/bookstore>.

Course Requirements

Online Student Handbook

The online Student Handbook is a guide that contains information for participation in this course. Needed forms may be downloaded and printed from this site. You will find it located on the RTS/Virtual website under Resources. Check here for all the latest updates.

Requirements in Brief

- Follow the Study Guide provided.
- Listen to all recorded lectures.
- Submit response papers (described below).
- Complete all readings.
- Comprehensive final examination
- Submit mentor report/course application paper.

Response Papers (45%)

A major objective for this class is to introduce the student to the life and writings of C.S. Lewis. To accomplish this goal, readings have been selected to enhance each lesson. Assignments for response papers have also been created to help the student further comprehend C.S. Lewis' writings. These are found specifically in the Evaluating Questions for the Lessons: The response paper assignments are found in Evaluating Question #2 for Lesson 1, Evaluating Question #2 for Lesson 2, Evaluating Question #3 for Lesson 3, Evaluating Question #1 for Lesson 4, and Evaluating Question #2 for Lesson 5.

Submit your response papers in your online portfolio, or electronically, as an attachment to a cover e-mail message, using RTF (Rich Text Format), MS Word, or Word Perfect. If you submit your paper as an e-mail attachment, notify us in the cover e-mail message what format you used in the paper. Since RTF strips away formatting, this is the least desirable way to send your papers.

Final Examination (50%)

There is one comprehensive examination for this course. All exams are to be requested online (<http://virtual.rts.edu/>). All exams are proctored. Upon completion, please follow all instructions on the Exam Request page concerning how to submit your exam to RTS/Virtual.

Mentor Report/Course Application Paper (5%)

Each MA Distance student is required to have his mentor submit a report at the end of the course. This report will contribute to 5% of the student's grade. For students who are not registered in the MA program, you are asked to write a 200 word summary of how you perceive what you have learned in this course will fit into the objectives you have for your ministry, your educational goals, or other objectives you wish to achieve in life.

Assignments

All Assignments are due the last day of the course (See start letter), unless stipulated otherwise in this syllabus. Any student who needs an extension must get approval from the Virtual Campus before the deadline. Assignments are to be submitted as e-mail attachments .

Please place course title in the subject heading (E-mail: vcstudentservices@rts.edu).

Time Limit

All course work, including exams, papers, reading requirements, is to be completed within four months from your course start date.

Contact Information

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Web site: <http://virtual.rts.edu/>

COURSE OUTLINE
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Lesson One: A Short Biography

The Man and His Writings
Lewis' Spiritual Pilgrimage
 Preface
 Nominal Christianity
 Atheism
 Joy
 Theism
 Christian Theism
Lewis the Apologist
 Interpreting Modern Man
 Addressing Modern Man
 The Apologist's Evening Prayer

Lesson 2: Lewis' Theology

The Holy Trinity
 The True and Living God
 The Triune God
The Saving Work of Christ
 The Fallenness of Creation
 The Incarnation of the Son
 The Ministry of Christ
 The Cross of Christ
 The Exaltation of Christ
 God's Sovereign Initiative
 The Conquest of Pride
 The Necessity of Radical Change
 Union With Christ
Spiritual Warfare
 Preface
 Christ's Victory over the Devil
 The Devil's Pursuit of Believers
 The Devil's Strategy
 The Believer's Victory over the Devil

Lesson Three: Revelation

God's Creative Activity
Lewis' View of the Bible
A Primer in Literary Criticism
Understanding Myth
Some Conclusions
Other Faiths

Lesson Four: Social and Ethical Issues

The Three Parts of Morality
The Seven Vices
The Seven Virtues
Morality and Psychotherapy
Crime and Punishment
Issues in Education

Lesson Five: The Problem of Pain and the Life Everlasting

The Problem
The Ultimate Answer
The Necessity of Suffering
Some Biblical Images
The Shattering of Illusions
The Ultimate Test
The Centrality of the Cross
Self and Other
Shadowlands: Some Reflections
The Death of Joy Davidman Lewis
Hell
Heaven
Purgatory
Heaven and Hell
Between Today and Tomorrow

SELECT COURSE BIBLIOGRAPHY
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For a complete list of Lewis' works, see Gibb, *Light on C. S. Lewis*, 121-60, and Lindeskoog, *C. S. Lewis, Mere Christian*, 238-43 (both under II. below).

I. Works by C. S. Lewis

A Grief Observed (1961).

A Mind Awake: An Anthology of C. S. Lewis. Edited by Clyde Kilby (1968).

A Preface to Paradise Lost (1942).

All My Road Before Me: The Diary of C. S. Lewis, 1922-1927. Edited by Walter Hooper (1991).

An Experiment in Criticism (1961).

Christian Reflections. Edited by Walter Hooper (1967).

Dymor (1950).

English Literature in the Sixteenth Century Excluding Drama, Vol. 3 of *The Oxford History of English Literature* (1954).

God in the Dock: Essays on Theology and Ethics. Edited by Walter Hooper (1970).

Letters of C. S. Lewis. Edited by Warren H. Lewis (1966).

Letters to an American Lady. Edited by Clyde Kilby (1967).

Letters to Children. Edited by Lyle W. Dorsett and M. J. Mead (1985).

Letters to Malcolm, Chiefly on Prayer (1964).

Mere Christianity (revised edition, 1961).

Miracles: A Preliminary Study (1947).

Narrative Poems. Edited by Walter Hooper (1969).

Of Other Worlds: Essays and Stories. Edited by Walter Hooper (1966).

On Stories, and Other Essays on Literature I. Edited by Walter Hooper (1982).

Out of the Silent Planet (1938).

Perelandra: A Novel (1944).

Poems. Edited by Walter Hooper (1965).

Present Concerns. Edited by Walter Hooper (1986).

Screwtape Proposes a Toast, and Other Pieces (1965).

Selected Literary Essays. Edited by Walter Hooper (1969).

Studies in Medieval and Renaissance Literature (1966).

Studies in Words (1960).

Surprised by Joy: The Shape of My Early Life (1955).

That Hideous Strength: A Modern Fairy-Tale for Grownups (1945).

The Abolition of Man: Or, Reflections on Education with Special Reference to the Teaching of English in the Upper Forms of Schools (1946).

The Allegory of Love: A Study in Medieval Tradition (1936).

The Business of Heaven: Daily Readings from C. S. Lewis (1984).

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (1950).
The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (1951).
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the 'Dawn Treader' (1952).
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Silver Chair (1953).
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Horse and His Boy (1954).
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Magician's Nephew (1955).
The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle (1956).
The Dark Tower, and Other Stories. Edited by Walter Hooper (1977).
The Discarded Image: An Introduction to Medieval and Renaissance Literature (1964).
The Four Loves (1960).
The Great Divorce (1946).
The Personal Heresy: A Controversy Between E. M. W. Tillyard and C. S. Lewis (1939).
The Pilgrim's Regress (1933; revised edition, 1943).
The Problem of Pain (1942).
The Screwtape Letters (1944).
The Shadowlands of C. S. Lewis: The Man Behind the Movie. Selections from the Writings of C. S. Lewis.
 Edited by Peter Kreeft (1944).
The Visionary Christian: 131 Readings. Edited by Chad Walsh (1981).
The Weight of Glory, and Other Addresses (1949).
The World's Last Night, and Other Essays (1960).
They Asked for a Paper: Papers and Addresses (1962).
They Stand Together: The Letters of C. S. Lewis to Arthur Greeves, 1914-1963. Edited by Walter Hooper
 (1979).
Till We Have Faces: A Myth Retold (1956).
Transposition, and Other Addresses (1949).

II. Works About C. S. Lewis

Aeschilman, Michael D. *The Restitution of Man: C. S. Lewis and the Case Against Scientism* (1983).
 Arnott, Anne. *The Secret Country of C. S. Lewis* (1975).
 Barratt, David. *C. S. Lewis and His World* (1987).
 Beversluis, John. *C. S. Lewis and the Search for Rational Religion* (1985).
 Blount, Paul G., ed. "The Inklings." *Studies in the Literary Imagination* 14, no. 2. Ga. State Univ.
 (fall 1981)
 Carnell, Corbin S. *Bright Shadow of Reality: C. S. Lewis and the Feeling Intellect* (1974).
 Carpenter, Humphrey. *The Inklings: C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, Charles Williams, and Their Friends*
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 Christensen, Michael J. *C. S. Lewis on Scripture: His Thoughts on the Nature of Biblical Inspiration,
 the Role of Revelation, and the Question of Inerrancy* (1979).
 Christopher, Joe R. *C. S. Lewis* (1987).
 Como, James T., ed. *C. S. Lewis at the Breakfast Table, and other Reminiscences* (1979).
 Coren, Michael. *The Man Who Created Narnia: The Story of C. S. Lewis* (1996).
 Cunningham, Richard B. *C. S. Lewis: Defender of the Faith* (1967).
 Dorsett, Lyle W. *And God Came In* (1983); about Joy Davidman.
 Duriez, Colin. *The C. S. Lewis Handbook: A Comprehensive Guide to His Life, Thought and Writings*

- (1990).
- Ford, Paul F. *Companion to Narnia* (1980).
- Fuller, Edmund, et al. *Myth, Allegory, and Gospel: An Interpretation of J. R. R. Tolkien, C. S. Lewis, G. K. Chesterton and Charles Williams* (1974).
- Gibb, Jocelyn, ed. *Light on C. S. Lewis* (1965).
- Gibson, Evan K. *C. S. Lewis: Spinner of Tales* (1980).
- Glaspey, Terry. *Not a Tame Lion: The Spiritual Legacy of C. S. Lewis* (ca. 1996).
- Green, Roger Lancelyn, and Walter Hooper. *C. S. Lewis: A Biography* (1974).
- Gresham, Douglas. *Lentenlands* (1988).
- Griffin, William. *Clive Staples Lewis: A Dramatic Life* (1986).
- Hannay, Margaret P. *C. S. Lewis* (1981).
- Hart, Dabney A. *Through the Open Door: A New Look at C. S. Lewis* (1984).
- Holmer, Paul L. *C. S. Lewis: The Shape of His Faith and Thought* (1976).
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- _____. *Through Joy and Beyond: A Pictorial Biography of C. S. Lewis* (1982).
- Howard, Thomas. *The Achievement of C. S. Lewis* (1980). Republished as *C. S. Lewis, Man of Letters*.
- Hughes, Larry R. *The World View of C. S. Lewis Implicit in His Religious Writings* (1980).
- Hutter, Charles A. "Angels in the Thought of C. S. Lewis." In *Perspectives*, February 1994, 12-15.
- _____, ed. *Imagination and the Spirit: Essays in literature and the Christian Faith Presented to Clyde S. Kilby* (1971).
- Karkainen, Paul A. *Narnia Explored* (1979).
- Keefe, Carolyn, ed. *C. S. Lewis, Speaker and Teacher* (1971).
- Kilby, Clyde S. *Images of Salvation in the Fiction of C. S. Lewis* (1978).
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- _____, and Douglas Gilbert. *C. S. Lewis: Images of His World* (1973).
- Kreeft, Peter. *C. S. Lewis: A Critical Essay* (1969).
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- _____. *Between Heaven and Hell: A Dialog Somewhere Beyond Death with John F. Kennedy, C. S. Lewis & Aldous Huxley* (1982).
- Lewis, Warren H. *Brothers and Friends: The Diaries of Major Warren Hamilton Lewis*. Edited by Clyde S. Kilby and M. L. Mead (1982).
- Lindskoog, Kathryn. "Bright Shoots of Everlastingness: C. S. Lewis' Search for Joy." In *Perspectives*, September 1993, 17-21.
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- _____. *The Lion of Judah in Never-Never Land: The Theology of C. S. Lewis Expressed in His Fantasies for Children* (1973).
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- Sammons, Martha. *A Guide Through C. S. Lewis' Space Trilogy* (1980).
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- Willis, John R. *Pleasures Forevermore: The Theology of C. S. Lewis* (1983).
- Wilson, A. N. *C. S. Lewis: A Biography* (1990).