

LINC 101 SB: Freshman Year Seminar

Spring 2015

Dr. Falla

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Office Hours: MWF 9:30-11:00; R 2:00-3:30; by appt.

FYS Topic: The topic for our section will focus on the use of violence as a teaching device in various art forms but most particularly, film and the work of J.R.R. Tolkien. We will ask whether violence in his work, and others, had another opposite intention, namely harmony or some other more positive goal. To that end we will read his *Fellowship of the Ring*, as well a watch the film version by Peter Jackson. In addition we will explore other films that deal with war to see what their message might be. This will serve as the basis for our writing and in-class discussions.

FYS Course Description: FYS introduces writing as a process that is central to college learning and life. It focuses on college-level reading and writing so that students can sharpen their critical reasoning skills needed for success in any academic major at Moravian College. The subject area focus of each section entails reading and discussing ideas and styles from various academic disciplines; but all section have the same general approach. You will practice speaking and writing and will work collaboratively in workshop settings. **Your preparation and participation are, therefore, essential to the success of the class and to your success in it.**

Course Objectives with regard to academic and writings skill, you will:

- 1) Demonstrate a process approach to writing
- 2) Use reading, writing and observing as ways to discover new information and insights
- 3) Demonstrate competency in writing including framing questions, proposing problems and synthesizing information to write an academic paper
- 4) Write effectively in a variety of genres
- 5) Gather and evaluate information from variety of technologies as to its credibility and usefulness for use in an academic paper
- 6) Read critically and comprehensively to integrate others' ideas with your own

Course Objectives with regards to college life:

Since you have completed the six Friday Student Life sessions and your first semester, we will focus on those issues most germane to your continued academic progress and success. While opportunities will be provided for you to bring up areas of concern, we will focus in class on: class registration, declaration of major, internships, research possibilities and employment search strategies. There will also be sessions on how to effectively use the Library and Writing Center. Since you have already completed your six weekly Student Life sessions, we will not meet on Fridays beginning on March 27th.

Course Materials:

Tolkien, J.R.R., *The Fellowship of the Ring*, Mariner Books, Houghton Mifflin, 1994 (required)

Other materials, both electronic and print, will be provided as required. These will include on-line writing sites such as Purdue Univ. OWL and the Bedford Handbook Online. There will also be sessions involving library instruction and the Writing Center.

Course Evaluation

Your final grade will be based upon:

Reflection Papers (20%): You will be asked to write and revise two (2) 3-5 page papers on questions arising from the material being studied in class. Your final grade will be based on your use of the course material as well as the quality of your argumentation and writing. These papers will be one basis for our class discussions..

Website evaluation (10%): Subsequent to our Library Instruction, you will be asked to evaluate a website that is germane to the topic of this seminar using the rubric supplied by Reeves Library. Your submission will be used with the other submissions to be used as resource material for our class's research project.

Journal (20%): You will be asked to keep a journal, either written or electronically, reflecting on how you see the themes of the course being played out in the films and other art forms being incorporated in the class. These journals will be reviewed periodically throughout the semester and evaluated with respect depth of reflection and style of presentation.

Group Interview (10%): You will be placed in groups of 4-5 and asked to develop one question per person to be used as the basis for an interview of me on my experiences in the Vietnamese War. Then as a group you will put together a final 2-3 page paper based on the interview. I will then meet with you to de-brief you on your submission. You will be evaluated on the quality of your questions as well the quality of your report.

Class Participation (10%): This grade will be based on your attendance and voluntary active participation in asking questions and class discussion.

Final Research Paper (30%): This 8-10 page paper exclusive of bibliography will focus on a work of art or the work of an artist with respect their use of violence or other related motifs in articulating the major themes of their work. We are using art here in the broadest sense to include all art forms (visual, literary and musical). This paper will be scaffolded which means that it will be done in sections that build on each other with each section being marked separately. The sections and their worth are: Proposal (5%), Bibliography (10%), Required Rough Draft (0%), Final Draft and Abstract (15%). A rubric further outlining the project and timeline will be provided in the beginning of the semester.

Extra Credit: There will be several events which like this course will focus on the In-focus theme for this year. You can earn one (1) point up to a total of three (3) points for each event attended and reflected upon in your journal. This will be added to your final grade. These entries to the journal will be evaluated by the same criteria as all other entries.

Grading Scale:

A: 92.5 +

A-: 89.5-92.4

B+: 87.5-89.4

B: 82.5-87.4

B-: 79.5-82.4

Etc.

Honor and Attendance Policies:

Students are expected to regularly attend class. Attendance is considered in the calculation of your class participation grade and is therefore important. If you must miss class, it is your responsibility to notify the instructor and to insure that arrangements are made to make up all missed assignments. You are also to turn in all assignments on time. If you must be late with your work, you must make arrangements with the instructor prior to the due date. Failure to do so may result in the lowering of your grade for late submission.

Students have an obligation to exhibit honesty in all their work. You will be found to have violated this obligation if you plagiarize or cheat. Plagiarizing is the work of another as one's own. Cheating is taking, giving or accepting illicit advantage for any course work inside, or outside, the classroom. Any violation of the policy will result in the lowering of one's grade.

Additional Aid/Consideration

Students who wish to request accommodations for a disability should contact, Elaine Mara, Asst. director of Learning Services for Academic and Disability Support at lower level, Monocacy Hall, or by calling 610-861-1401. Accommodation can't be provided without formal authorization from the Academic Support Center.

Course Syllabus

Week of:

Jan. 19: Introduction to the Course

Tolkien: Prologue; Book I, Chpt. 1 & 2

Jan. 26: Tolkien and World War 1

Movie: *All's Quiet on the Western Front*

Tolkien: BK 1:3-6

Feb. 2: Tolkien and World War 1

Tolkien: BK 1:7-10

Paper #1 Due: 2/6

Feb. 9: Tolkien and World War 2

Tolkien: BK 1: 11 & 12

Research Proposal Due: 2/13

Feb. 16: Tolkien and World War 2

Tolkien: BK 2: 1 & 2

Website Analysis Due: 2:/20

Feb. 23: Vietnam War and Film

Tolkien: BK 2:3 & 4

Journal Due: 2/27

Mar. 2: Background to Book

Tolkien: BK 2: 5-7

Mar. 9: Spring Break

Mar. 16: Background to Book & Film
Tolkien: BK 2:8-10

Bibliography Due: 3/20

Mar. 23: Movie

Interview Paper Due: 3/25

Movie: *Fellowship of the Ring*

Mar. 30: Movie

Movie: *Fellowship of the Ring*

Apr. 6: Philosophical and Religious Themes in Tolkien
Handouts
Meetings on Research Paper

Rough Draft Due: (opt.)

Apr. 13: Philosophical and Religious Themes in Tolkien
Handouts
Meetings on Research Paper

Paper #2 Due: 4/15

Apr. 20: Wrap-up

Journal Due: 4/22

Apr. 27: Meetings on Research Paper

Research Paper Due: 4/29