

COOPERATIVE CENTER FOR STUDY ABROAD
Course Proposal Form

“Tolkien and War”

July 9 - August 10, 2009

London, England

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name Dr. John Halbrooks Rank Assistant Professor

(please include title: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Dr.)

Status at time of CCSA program (i.e. active or retired/emeritus) Active

University University of South Alabama Dept. English

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(will be printed in brochure)

PROPOSED COURSE

- a. **Academic Content:** Briefly describe the academic content of your course. Please provide information (e.g. potential reading list) that can be utilized by each CCSA campus representative to obtain credit at his/her respective campus.

Tolkien and War: This course will consider the writings of J. R. R. Tolkien in the twin contexts of his heroic medieval sources and the unprecedented violence of the first half of the twentieth century. Readings will include *The Lord of the Rings*, *Beowulf*, and John Garth's *Tolkien and the Great War*. Assignments will include a daily reading/travel journal, a presentation, and a final. Please see attached syllabus for more detailed information.

- b. **Academic Discipline of Proposed Course** Literature
(e.g., History, Journalism, Literature)

- c. **Local Course Designator and Number** _____
(e.g., MAT200, HIS300) if currently available

- d. **Generic Course Title** (e.g., Intro to Psychology) Tolkien and War

- e. **CCSA Course Title** (to appear in CCSA brochure and website)

Tolkien and War

- f. **Number of Credit Hours:** _____ **Level:** LD (Lower Div. 100-200);
UD (Upper Div. 300-500)
and/or G (Grad. 500 and above)

3 UD

- g. **Course Description.** Your best 100 words (maximum) for CCSA publications; dry “catalog type” descriptions rarely work. This will be utilized for marketing purposes and may very well be your prime opportunity to attract students.

We will be exploring three different but related worlds in this course: the English Middle Ages, wartime Britain, and Tolkien's Middle Earth. We will get a taste of Tolkien's life in the trenches during the Great War and of London during the Blitz as we visit the Imperial War Museum; we will walk the streets of Oxford, where Tolkien spent his career; and we will travel back in time to a medieval castle and to ancient Anglo-Saxon sites. To inform our ventures, we will read Tolkien's writings and the texts that were important to him.

What kinds of student do you plan to target in your recruiting?

Literature and History majors would, I think, certainly be interested in this course, as well as students interested in medieval studies. Additionally, Tolkien attracts a wide and devoted readership well beyond the category of traditional English majors.

Relative to your proposed course, provide the following additional information:

Can the course be taken to fulfill:

major and minor requirements? Yes x No _____

general elective credit? Yes x No _____

Does your course have prerequisites? Yes x No _____

Specify using generic terms (i.e. one semester composition; not ENG 105):

Completion of lower division English/composition requirements.

Have you identified sites for field trips in the foreign country?

Elaborate on field trip plans:

Potential trips include:

---The Imperial War Museum

---A visit to an Oxford College, Magdalen or Christ Church

---Warwick Castle

---The Anglo-Saxon holdings in the British Museum

---Salisbury Cathedral, the Salisbury Museum, and Old Sarum

Which of the following methods do you plan to utilize in evaluating your students' performance in your course. **Please elaborate on each of your choices (e.g. there will be daily papers each worth 25 points)** and indicate what percentage of the final grade each method will reflect.

Traditional Tests and Quizzes _____%

There will be a final, essay-based exam.

Journals (Daily, Weekly,...) 30 %

Students will write daily, informal essays in journal form. These entries will be based on their readings and their travel.

Short Essays _____%

Papers _____%

Individual or Group Projects/Presentations 30 %

These will be given in the final week and will connect in a substantive way the relationship between place and text. These will take the place of a longer paper, and students will be expected to present a substantial academic argument for their peers to discuss.

Summative Component, such as final exam required in London Summer or post-trip projects (research papers, portfolios, etc.) required for all 2- to 3-week programs, must comprise a minimum of 25% of grade. For courses in 2- to 3-week programs, please provide information regarding the nature of the post-trip project/paper. 40 %

Final, essay-based exam.

Other (please explain). It is recommended that participation, if included as an evaluation method, comprise no more than 10% of the grade. However, CCSA realizes that hands-on participation is an integral component of the evaluation process for selected disciplines. Consequently, if you wish to assess higher than 10% toward participation, please specify what is comprised therein. _____ %

Total = 100%

SUBJECT TO CHANGE OR MODIFICATION –

Contact Dr. Halbrooks for additional details and final course syllabus.