

FND 240 Christianity and Literature

Fall 2021

Course Outline

Class Start Date & End Date

Start date: Monday, September 8

End date: Monday, December 13

Class Meeting Time, Location, and Room

Mondays & Wednesdays, 10:00-11:20am

St. Eugene de Mazenod Room

Instructor's Name:	Jennifer Fast
Office:	Sessional Office 2-07
Office Hours:	M & W 9:00-10:00, 11:20-12:00 or by appointment
Telephone:	780-392-2450 x2207
Email:	Jennifer.Fast@newman.edu
Skype:	n/a

Course Description

A study of some of the great works of Christian literature that have profoundly shaped thinking on human life, and particularly on philosophical and theological questions. This course looks at central themes such as sin, conversion, love, fidelity and friendship through analyzing the works of major Christian writers. Authors such as Hildegard von Bingen, Dante, Chaucer, Erasmus, Milton, Donne, Herbert, Austen, Hopkins, Chesterton, Sayers, Waugh, Eliot, Lewis, Tolkien, Goudge, Hill and others may be explored.

Course Objectives

- a) **Broad familiarity with the contributions of Catholicism to Western Culture** – Students will be introduced to Catholicism's key literary, religious, and institutional contributions to Western culture chiefly as manifest in representative Great Books;
- b) **Skills in reading, writing and oral communication** – Students will develop skills in the close reading of, articulate speaking about, and persuasive writing upon literary, philosophical, and theological texts;
- c) **Opportunity for Growth in Christian discipleship** – By witnessing the influence of Catholicism upon the thought and culture of the West,

students will be invited to consider the way that the Church's faith has unified and ennobled human communities.

Course Requirements, Assignments, and Evaluation

Daily Reading Quizzes – 10%: Reading quizzes will be designed to reward students for time spent in the text, aid them in assessing their ability to identify and recall important elements of plot, theme, and character, and prepare them for the final exam. Quizzes will consist of short-answer, true and false, and quote identification questions.

Participation – 20%: Students are expected to (1) prepare for discussion by completing the relevant reading and considering the study questions assigned for each class; (2) take good notes during discussions; and (3) contribute to the common conversation in a manner which advances both their own understanding and that of their classmates. Such contributions may take a variety of forms, as will be discussed in the introductory class.

Essays – 50%: Students will write two short essays (2-4 pages) and one longer essay (4-6 pages) which will offer them the opportunity to examine more thoroughly a question or topic raised in class, or to carry out an investigation or reflection of their choosing (subject to approval). Suggested topics, rubrics, and additional instructions regarding thesis approval and required office-hours meetings will be given in class.

Final Exam – 20%: The exam will consist of quote identifications, poetry analysis, and a comprehensive essay. Each student will also be required to memorize, recite, and briefly discuss one poem during office hours in the week preceding the exam. A study guide and information regarding the recitation will be given at least one week prior to each event.

Required Books

Anonymous, *Mankind*, in *Three Late Morality Plays* (Bloomsbury)
 Anonymous, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, trans. Keith Harrington (Oxford World's Classics)
 Shakespeare, *Hamlet* (Folger)
 Newman, *Prayers, Verses, and Devotions* (Ignatius)
 Chesterton, *Manalive* (Ignatius)
 Eliot, *Complete Poems and Plays* (Faber & Faber)
 Waugh, *Brideshead Revisited* (Penguin)
 Weigel, ed., *Poems Every Catholic Should Know* (Tan)
 Levin, ed., *The Penguin Book of the Sonnet* (Penguin)

Recommended Reading

The above texts will be sufficient.

Late Submission Policy.

All assignments, unless otherwise noted, are due at the beginning of the class on the specified day. Late assignments will be docked 10% per day--excluding Sundays and Holy Days--up to a maximum of 5 days, after which the assignment will be deemed incomplete.

Course Schedule

Sep 8	Introduction	
13	<i>Mankind</i>	
15	<i>Mankind</i>	
20	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> Fitts 1 & 2	
22	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> Fitts 3 & 4	
27	<i>Hamlet</i> Acts 1 & 2	Essay 1 assigned
29	<i>Hamlet</i> Acts 3 & 4	
Oct 4	<i>Hamlet</i> Act 5	Oct 5., 5pm: Essay 1 due
6	The Poetry of John Donne (see p. 7)	
11	Thanksgiving Recess	
13	The Poetry of George Herbert & Richard Crashaw (see p. 6)	
18	The Poetry of John Henry Newman (see p. 7)	
20	The Poetry of Gerard Manley Hopkins (see p. 7)	
25	<i>Manalive</i> Chapters 1-4	Essay 2 assigned
27	<i>Manalive</i> Chapters 5-7	
Nov. 1	<i>Manalive</i> Chapters 8-10	Nov. 2, 5pm: Essay 2 due
3	<i>The Waste Land</i>	
8	The Solemn Festival of Reading Week	
11	Remembrance Day	

15	"The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock" and "The Journey of the Magi"	
17	<i>Brideshead Revisited</i> Prologue-Book 1, Chapter 2	
22	<i>Brideshead Revisited</i> Book 1, Chapter 3-Chapter 4 break	
24	<i>Brideshead Revisited</i> Book 1, Chapter 4 break-Chapter 6	
29	<i>Brideshead Revisited</i> Book, Chapter 7-Book 2, Chapter 1 break	
Dec 1	<i>Brideshead Revisited</i> Book 2, Chapter 1 break-Chapter 2	Essay 3 Assigned
6	<i>Brideshead Revisited</i> Book 2, Chapter 3-Epilogue	
8	Short Pieces: Lewis, Tolkien, Hill et alii	Dec. 10, 5pm: Essay 3 due
13	Short Pieces: Lewis, Tolkien, Hill et alii	
As published	Final Exam	

General Academic Information

Course Attendance

No credit will be given for a course if the student has been absent, for any reason whatsoever, from one-third or more of the lectures and/or seminars scheduled for the term. Likewise, no credit will be given if term assignments or other assignments are or remain incomplete.

Leave of Absence and Policy for Incompletes

Extensions to an incomplete grade may be granted in extenuating circumstances, but may not exceed 16 weeks following the end of the course. Students who fail to complete course work by the agreed deadline will have a grade assigned which is based on work completed.

Academic Integrity

Acts of academic dishonesty (plagiarism, cheating, etc.) are subject to an appropriate penalty. The grade "F" may be assigned to a student guilty of such acts by the professor of the course in which the infraction occurred. A second offense against academic integrity renders the student liable to automatic dismissal from NTC. Further details are available in the Academic Calendar in the Academic Misconduct Policy.

Academic Grievances

Students may appeal grades received; the procedure is outlined in the Academic Calendar in the Grade Appeal Policy. For other grievances, students will refer to the Student Grievances Policy also outlined in the Academic Calendar.

NOTE: The GPA is computed on the basis of cumulative grade point (letter) values, not percentage values. All courses are included in this calculation except those exceeding degree requirements and/or received as transfer credits from other recognized institutions.

Grading System

Undergraduate Studies		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0
	A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0
	B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0
	C-	1.7
Marginal	D+	1.3
	D	1.0
Fail	F	0.0

Graduate Studies		
Grade Meaning	Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	A+	4.0
	A	4.0
	A-	3.7
Good	B+	3.3
	B	3.0
	B-	2.7
Adequate	C+	2.3
	C	2.0
	C-	1.7
Fail	D+	1.3
	D	1.0
	F	0.0

Written Assignments - Style and Format

Newman Theological College requires that all written work be submitted in acceptable academic format and style. Please note the following regulations:

Regulations

Research papers, book reports, article summaries, reflection papers, and essays should be double-spaced, printed on one side only, and submitted on white, 8.5" x 11" paper.

A standard type style, such as Times New Roman, with a 12-point font size, must be used. The instructor will specify the most recent edition of the style manual to be used:

1. Kate Turabian, "A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations" (Chicago: University of Chicago Press).

2. Joseph Gibaldi & William Aichters, eds., "MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers" (New York: Modern Language Association of America).
3. American Psychological Association "Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association" (Washington: APA Publications).

Copies of these standard references may be purchased in the NTC bookstore.

Ignorance of standard form is not considered an acceptable excuse for deviation from required standards of format and style.

Academic Regulations

The following Academic Regulations are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Changes in Registration: Add/Drop/Withdraw Notice
- Course Work
- Final Examination Schedule
- Incomplete Grade Policy
- Inclusive Language

Related Academic Matters

The following Related Academic Matters are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Grade Reports & Posting
- Glossary of Academic Terms

Other Related Policies

The following policies are located in the Academic Calendar for your reference:

- Academic Misconduct Policy
- Grade Appeal Policy

Recording of Lectures

Audio or video recording of lectures, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior consent of the instructor. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Student Accessibility Services:

A student with special needs that could affect their performance in class should contact their professor during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. They should also register with Student Services by contacting Sr. Zoe Bernatsky at 780-392-2450 ext. 2213; email zoe.bernatsky@newman.edu

Bibliography

Will be distributed in class.

APPENDIX: Poetry Assignments

The below list is comprehensive; to prepare for discussion, please focus your attention on the bolded titles, as well as additional poems from this list indicated in class. Poems not found in books purchased for the course will be provided on a handout.

John Donne:

- Selections from *Holy Sonnets* found in *Poems Every Catholic Should Know*, especially **“Death, be not proud, thou some have called thee”** and **“Batter my heart, three-personed God; for You”**
- Selections from *La Corona* found in *The Penguin Book of the Sonnet*
- **Song (“Go and catch a falling star”)**
- “The Sun Rising”
- “Love’s Alchemy”
- **“A Nocturnal upon St. Lucy’s Day, Being the Shortest Day”**
- **“A Valediction Forbidding Mourning”**
- **“The Flea”**
- “Good Friday, 1613. Riding Westward.”
- **“Upon the Annunciation and Passion Falling On One Day.”**
- (“Thou hast made me, and shall thy work decay?”)
- **(“I am a little world, made cunningly”)**
- (“Show me, dear Christ, thy spouse so bright and clear”)

George Herbert:

- Selections found in *Poems Every Catholics Should Know*, especially **“The Agonie”** and **“The Pulley”**
- Selections found in *The Penguin Book of the Sonnet*, especially **“Two Sonnets Sent to His Mother”** and **“Prayer”**
- **“The Altar”**
- “Artillery”
- **“The Collar”**
- “The Flowers”
- “The Forerunners”
- “Discipline”
- “The Elixir”
- **“Death”**
- **“Love (III)”**

Richard Crashaw

- Selections found in *Poems Every Catholic Should Know*, especially **“Charitas Nimia, or The Dear Bargain”** and **“A Hymn to the Name and Honour of the Admirable Saint Teresa”**
- **“On the Baptized Ethiopian”**
- **“To the Infant Martyrs”**
- **“Upon the Infant Martyrs”**
- **“The Tear”**

John Henry Newman

- **“The Sign of the Cross”**
- “A Word in Season”
- **“The Dream of Gerontius”**
- **“The Pillar of the Cloud”**
- “Angelic Guidance”
- “The Age to Come”
- **“The Priestly Office”**
- “A Voice from Afar”
- **“Zeal and Love”**
- **“Lead Kindly Light”**

Gerard Manley Hopkins:

- **“God’ Grandeur”**
- **“The Windhover”**
- **“Pied Beauty”**
- “(As Kingfishers Catch Fire, Dragonflies Draw Flame)”
- “Felix Randal”
- **“Spring and Fall”**
- “(Carrion Comfort)”
- “(No Worst, There is None, Pitched Past Pitch of Grief)”
- “(I Wake and Feel the Fell of Dark, Not Day)”
- **“(My Own Heart Let Me More Have Pity On)”**
- “That Nature is a Heraclitean Fire and the Comfort of the Resurrection”
- **“(Thou Art Indeed Just, Lord...)”**