Instructor: Mr. Daniel Alvarez  
Office Hours: DM 302, TR, 11:00-12:00 p.m

COURSE DESCRIPTION
Clive Staples Lewis (C. S. Lewis) is arguably the best known and most influential apologist for the Christian faith in the world, and this for over half a century. Conservatives appeal to Lewis almost as a matter of course, and even Liberal theologians look upon Lewis with respect and reverence. The purpose of this course is to go beyond the hype and the legend and explore some of Lewis’ self-consciously theological (some may be classified better as philosophical) defenses of the Christian faith. We will focus on Lewis more serious apologetic works, including important short writings that are just as indispensable for an understanding of Lewis, where he laid the foundations for all subsequent defenses of the Christian faith (most notably William Lane Craig and J. P. Moreland, among many others), theologically and philosophically, and as a worldview. In the course of our investigation into Lewis’ thought we will also attempt to delineate his interpretation of Christianity, why he found it compelling enough to convert to it from atheism, whether his interpretation merits the acclaim that it has received, and finally, whether Lewis can be said to be a defender of Christianity in its most rigorously orthodox form.

TEXTBOOKS
Required books:
C. S. Lewis, The Pilgrim’s Regress (1933/1943) (PR)
________, The Problem of Pain (1940) (PP)
________, Miracles: A Preliminary Study (1947) (M)
________, Mere Christianity (1952) (MC)
________, Christian Reflections (1967) (CR)
________, God in the Dock: Essays on Theology and Ethics (1970) (GD)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADES
1. Research paper (10-12 pages) on a course topic or one agreed in advance with the instructor (70% of grade).
2. Class presentation (2 pages maximum) on the weekly reading. The presentation will be a summary of the main points of the reading, including the formulation of three (3) questions for class discussion (30% of the grade).

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COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1
M  Introduction: Syllabus, Requirements, Textbooks, Overview of course
W  The Dual Heritage of Western Culture and C. S. Lewis
    “Christianity and Culture,” from Christian Reflections (CR)
F  Dual Heritage, concluded
    “Christian Apologetics,” from God in the Dock (GD)

Week 2
M  Pilgrim’s Regress (PR)
W  PR, continued
F  PR, continued

Week 3
M  PR, continued
W  PR, continued
F  PR, concluded

Week 4
M  The Problem of Pain (PP)
W  PP, continued
F  PP, continued; “Evil and God,” from CR

Week 5
M  PP, continued
W  PP, continued
F  PP, continued

Week 6
M  PP, concluded
W  Miracles (M); David Hume, “On Miracles,” from Inquiry Concerning Human Understanding
F  M, continued

Week 7
M  M, continued; “Miracles,” from GD
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<th>Monday</th>
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<td>8</td>
<td>M, continued; “The Laws of Nature,” from GD</td>
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<td>F, continued; “Elizabeth Anscombe’s Reply to Lewis’ Argument against Naturalism in Chapter 3 of M”</td>
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<td>M, continued; “Rejoinder to Dr. Pittenger,” from GD</td>
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<td>M, continued; “The Grand Miracle,” from GD</td>
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<td>M, continued; “The Funeral of a Great Myth,” from CR</td>
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<td><em>Mere Christianity</em> (MC, Books I and II only)</td>
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<td>MC, continue; “Dogma and the Universe,” from GD</td>
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<td><strong>Spring Break (no classes)</strong></td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>“Religion: Reality or Substitute?” from CR; “Is Theism Important,” from GD</td>
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<td>“The Poison of Subjectivism,” from CR</td>
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<td>“The Language of Religion,” from CR</td>
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<td>“Historicism,” from CR</td>
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<td>“Modern Theology and Biblical Criticism,” from CR</td>
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<td>“What Are We to Make of Jesus Christ,” from GD</td>
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<td>“Myth became Fact,” from GD</td>
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<td>“Is Theism Important?” from GD</td>
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<td>“Religion Without Dogma?” from GD</td>
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Week 15
M  “Priestesses in the Church?” from GD
W  “The Decline of Religion,” from GD
F  “Cross-Examination,” from GD

RESEARCH PAPERS DUE

C. S. LEWIS: 1933-2002

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF RELIGIOUS WORKS


C. S. Lewis. [With a portrait and a list of his works.]. pp. 64. Bodley Head: London, 1963. 8vo.

WORKS BY C. S. LEWIS, arranged chronologically (until 2000):


Miracles, etc... pp. 190. Collins: London, 1960. 8vo. [with revisions]


God in the dock essays on theology. Edited by Walter Hooper. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1970 [1979] [Published in England in 1971 as Undeceptions (see below) by Bless. This work contains more material than Undeceptions.]


Fern-seed and Elephants, and other Essays on Christianity. Edited by Walter Hooper. 1975.


Of this and Other Worlds. Edited by Walter Hooper. 1982 (?) [2000].

First and Second Things: Essays on Theology and Ethics. 1985.


All my road before me: The diary of C. S. Lewis, 1922-1927. Edited by Walter Hooper, foreword


Selected books. C. S. Lewis. 1999.


The Complete C. S. Lewis. Harper San Francisco. 2002. [Contains his major theological and philosophical works, excluding short pieces.]

WORKS ON OR ABOUT C. S. LEWIS (1944-1990)


Clyde S. Kilby, The Christian world of C. S. Lewis. (Second printing.) Title [A reissue.]


C. S. Lewis, speaker & teacher. [By various authors.] Edited by Carolyn Keefe, etc. Title [Another copy.]. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Zondervan Publishing House, [1971]. pp. 144. 21 cm.


C. S. Lewis, speaker and teacher. Edited by Carolyn Keefe, etc.. London, etc.: Hodder and Stoughton, 1974. ISBN 0 340 18121 4 pp. 190. 18 cm.


C.S. Lewis the authentic voice William Griffin. 1988, c1986