

FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY  
Department of Religious Studies  
REL 4931 C. S. Lewis  
Spring 2013

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

Class Hours: MW, 9:00-9:50 a.m.  
PC 425

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### 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).

A	95-100	C	72-75
A-	91-94	C-	69-71
B+	88-90	D+	67-68
B	83-87	D	63-66
B-	79-82	F	0-62
C+	76-78		

## 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

W	M, continued; “The Laws of Nature,” from GD
F	M, continued; “Elizabeth Anscombe’s Reply to Lewis’ Argument against Naturalism in Chapter 3 of M”
Week 8	
M	M, continued; “Rejoinder to Dr. Pittenger,” from GD
W	M, continued
F	M, continued; “Religion and Science,” from GD
Week 9	
M	M, continued; “The Grand Miracle,” from GD
W	M, continued
F	M, continued; “The Funeral of a Great Myth,” from CR
Week 10	
M	<i>Mere Christianity</i> (MC, Books I and II only)
W	MC, continued; “God in the Dock,” from GD
F	MC, continue; “Dogma and the Universe,” from GD
Week 11	<b>Spring Break (no classes)</b>
Week 12	
M	“Religion: Reality or Substitute?” from CR; “Is Theism Important,” from GD
W	“The Poison of Subjectivism,” from CR
F	“The Language of Religion,” from CR
Week 13	
M	“Historicism,” from CR
W	“Modern Theology and Biblical Criticism,” from CR
F	“What Are We to Make of Jesus Christ,” from GD
Week 14	
M	“Myth became Fact,” from GD
W	“Is Theism Important?” from GD
F	“Religion Without Dogma?” from GD

- 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: an annotated checklist of writings about him and his works. Compiled by Joe R. Christopher and Joan K. Ostling. [Kent, Ohio]: Kent State University Press, [ca. 1975]. ISBN 0 87338 138 6 pp. xiii, 389. 23 cm....

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):

The Pilgrim's Regress, etc.. pp. 255. J. M. Dent & Sons: London, 1933. 8vo.

The Pilgrim's Regress. Sheed & Ward: London, 1935. 8vo.

The Pilgrim's Regress (New and revised edition). pp. 199. Geoffrey Bles: London, 1943.

The Problem of Pain. pp. ix. 148. Centenary Press: London, 1940. 8vo.

The Screwtape Letters. pp. 160. Geoffrey Bles: London, 1942. 8vo.

The Screwtape letters. (Reprinted with some alterations.). Glasgow: Collins, 1955. pp. 160. 19 cm.

The Screwtape Letters, and Screwtape proposes a Toast ... With a new preface. (New edition.). pp. 156. Geoffrey Bles: London, 1961. 8vo.

The Abolition of Man: or, Reflections on education with special reference to the teaching of English in the upper forms of schools.. pp. 52. Oxford University Press: London, 1943. 8vo.

The Abolition of Man, etc. (New edition.). pp. 64. Geoffrey Bles: London, 1946. 8vo.

The Great Divorce. A dream.. pp. 118. Geoffrey Bles: London, 1945. 8vo.

George Macdonald. An anthology, by C. S. Lewis.. pp. 128. Geoffrey Bles: London, 1946. 8vo.

Miracles. A preliminary study.. pp. 220. Geoffrey Bles: London, 1947. 8vo.

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

Transposition, and other addresses. pp. 64. Geoffrey Bles: London, 1949. 8vo.

Mere Christianity. A revised and amplified edition, with a new introduction, of the three books Broadcast Talks, Christian Behaviour, and Beyond Personality. pp. xiv. 176. Geoffrey Bles: London, 1952. 8vo.

Surprised by Joy. The shape of my early life. pp. 224. Geoffrey Bles: London, 1955. 8vo.

Reflections on the Psalms. pp. vii. 151. Geoffrey Bles: London, [1958.] 8vo.

The World's Last Night and Other Essays. Harcourt, Brace & Co.: New York, 1960. 8vo.

Letters to Malcolm: chiefly on prayer. pp. 158. Geoffrey Bles: London, 1964. 8vo.

Letters to Malcolm: chiefly on prayer. London: Collins, 1966. 124 p. 19 cm.

Letters of C. S. Lewis. Edited, with a memoir, by W. H. Lewis. [With plates, including portraits.]. pp. 308. Geoffrey Bles: London, [1966.] 8vo.

Christian reflections. Edited by Walter Hooper. pp. xiv. 176. Geoffrey Bles: London, 1967. 8vo.

A Mind awake. An Anthology of C. S. Lewis, edited by Clyde S. Kilby.. pp. 252. Geoffrey Bles: London, 1968. 8o.

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 Bles. This work contains more material than *Undeceptions*.]

Undeceptions: Essays on theology and ethics. Edited by Walter Hooper.. London: Geoffrey Bles, [1971]. SBN 7138 0293 6 pp. xvi, 285. 23 cm. [Published in the U.S. as *God in the Dock* in 1970 by Eerdmans, with additions.]

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

They Stand Together: The Letters of C. S. Lewis to Arthur Greeves (1914-1963). Edited by Walter Hooper. New York: Macmillan, 1979.

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

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

Present Concerns. Edited by Walter Hooper. 1986.

Timeless at Heart: Essays on Theology. Edited by Walter Hooper. 1987.

Letters of C. S. Lewis edited, with a memoir by W.H. Lewis. 1988 [published in 1966].

Letters C. S. Lewis, Don Giovanni Calabria. 1989.

Christian Reunion and other Essays. 1990.

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

by Owen Barfield. 1991.

Compelling Reason: Essays on Ethics and Theology. Edited by Walter Hooper. 1996.

The Wisdom of C. S. Lewis compiled by Brian Sibley. 1997.

Selected books. C. S. Lewis. 1999.

C. S. Lewis on Faith. Compiled by Lesley Walmsley. 1998.

The Christian Way: Readings for Reflection. Edited by Walter Hooper. 1992 (?) [1999].

C. S. Lewis, Essay Collection and Other Short Pieces edited by Lesley Walmsley. 2000.

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)

C. S. Lewis and some Modern Theologians.. pp. 27. Lindsey Press: London, 1944. 8vo.

C. S. Lewis: apostle to the skeptics.. pp. xiii. 176. Macmillan Co.: New York, [1949.] 8vo.

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

The Christian world of C. S. Lewis.. pp. 216. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.: Grand Rapids, 1964. 8vo.; Marcham Manor Press: Abingdon, 1965. 8vo.

Light on C. S. Lewis ... Edited by Jocelyn Gibb. [By various authors. With a bibliography and a portrait.]. pp. 160. Geoffrey Bles: London, 1965. 8vo.

C. S. Lewis, Defender of the Faith.. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, [1967]. pp. 223. 21 cm.

The image of man in C. S. Lewis.. London: Hodder & Stoughton, 1970. SBN 340 12843 7 239 p. 25 cm. bibl. p. 223-235....

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. Images of his world.. London, etc.: Hodder and Stoughton, 1973. ISBN 0340179597. pp. 192, ports. 24 <MULTIPLY> 29 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. A biography.. London: Collins, 1974. ISBN 0 00 216059 5 pp. 320: plate: port. 23 cm.

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

A. N. Wilson, C. S. Lewis: A Biography. New York: W. W. Norton & Co.: 1990.

A Christian for all Christians essays in honour of C. S. Lewis edited by Andrew Walker and James Patrick. 1990.