

PROFESSOR:

Jared Brandt

Office: Collins 207

Email: jaredb@dbu.edu

Phone: (214) 333-5218 (office)

(816) 674-7903 (cell)

Office Hours: Mornings 9-10am (and by appointment throughout the week)

CATALOG COURSE DESCRIPTION:

An in-depth engagement with some of the philosophical views of C.S. Lewis as presented in select novels and essays.

COURSE OVERVIEW:

This course is designed to introduce you to some of the central philosophical views of C.S. Lewis. In *That Hideous Strength* and *The Abolition of Man* we will encounter Lewis' analysis of a key problem in modern society and an exploration of the ultimate consequences of this problem. Next, we will turn to Lewis' insightful discussion of the relation between God and Evil in *The Problem of Pain*. This book introduces Lewis' views on the afterlife—Heaven and Hell—which will be further explored in *The Great Divorce*. Throughout the course, we will read and discuss his retelling of a story from Greek mythology: *Till We Have Faces*. In this novel—Lewis's last—we will see him bring together seemingly opposed categories: mythical and historical, pagan and Christian.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- To familiarize ourselves with important texts written by C.S. Lewis.
- To acquire the ability to interpret and understand these important texts.
- To practice writing about and discussing the texts in an informed, reflective, and engaging manner.
- To appreciate what these texts can teach us about life and about ourselves, and to apply them to contemporary debates.
- To practice integrating our experience of these texts with our Christian Faith.
- To strengthen our ability to think critically.

TEXTBOOKS REQUIRED:

- 📖 Lewis, *That Hideous Strength*, 0743234928, Scribner
- 📖 Lewis, *Till We Have Faces*, 0062565419, HarperOne
- 📖 Lewis, *The Abolition of Man*, 0060652942, HarperOne
- 📖 Lewis, *The Problem of Pain*, 0060652969, HarperOne
- 📖 Lewis, *The Great Divorce*, 0060652950, HarperOne

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

According to DBU academic policy, attendance in class is considered a necessary factor in the learning process. Therefore, absences for all reasons must be kept to a minimum and should not exceed 25 percent of the total class time. Students are held responsible for all academic work required or performed during their absence regardless of the reasons for those absences. Students

who register late are responsible for work missed. The policy concerning class attendance for individual courses, seminars, or other guided learning experiences will be determined by the faculty members in charge of such course, seminar, or learning experience. If you exceed **2 absences** in this class, you will not receive credit.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES:

I will be happy to accommodate any students with disabilities in accordance with the following DBU Policy: The student has the responsibility of informing the Dean of Students, at (214) 333-5340, of any disabling condition for which the student will request course modifications and/or accommodation. Dallas Baptist University provides academic adjustments and auxiliary aid to individuals with disabilities, as defined under law, who are otherwise qualified to meet the institution's academic requirements. It is the student's choice and responsibility to initiate any request for accommodations. Required documentation must be provided before the university can make accommodations.

UNIVERSITY HONOR CODE/ ACADEMIC APPEAL AND ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT PROCEDURE:

The faculty member endorses the University Honor Code and abides by the University's Academic Appeal and Academic Misconduct Procedure as stated in the Student Handbook and the Schedule of Classes. Cheating and/or plagiarism are not tolerated at Dallas Baptist University and may result in expulsion. *Please familiarize yourself with these policies and the definitions of the terms.*

ASSIGNMENTS:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Due</u>	<u>Total</u>
Daily Quizzes	Start of Class	10%
Student-Led Discussion		20%
Midterm Exam	1/11 by 11:59 pm	20%
Final Exam	1/18 by 11:59 pm	20%
Term Paper	2/1 by 11:59 pm	20%
Class Participation		10%

The **Daily Quizzes** will be short quizzes (3-5 questions) taken at the beginning of class. The purpose of the quizzes is to ensure that you complete the assigned reading. For that reason, they will not be difficult; if you've done the reading, you'll do well.

The **Student-Led Discussion** will be a chance for you to lead the class discussion for a particular section of the reading. You will need to prepare an outline of your section and 3-4 questions for us to discuss as a group. I will provide a list of possible sections and you will choose your presentation on the first day.

The **Exams** will be take-home exams composed of short essay questions. The Midterm will be due Saturday (1/11) at 11:59pm and the Final will be due Saturday (1/18) at 11:59pm. Late Exams will be penalized 10% per day.

The **Term Paper** is a longer essay (1200-1500 words) on one of the following readings: *The Abolition of Man*, *The Problem of Pain*, or *The Great Divorce*. I will provide prompts that you can address on the first day of class, but you are also welcome to choose your own topic. If the latter, you must get your topic approved by me. Late papers will be penalized 5% per day.

Class Participation is very important in this class as it will primarily involve group discussion. You are expected to have read **all** of the assigned reading before class and to have completed the daily writing. During class, you are expected to be engaged in the class discussion and contribute appropriately. **To minimize distractions, you should not use electronics (phones, computers, tablets, etc) unless you have asked permission of the instructor for a special reason.** I expect that most students will receive the full 10% for participation. However, points will be lost for the following reasons: more than one unexcused absence, using unauthorized electronic devices during class, and lack of engagement during class.

GRADING SCALE:

A	93 to 100%	C	73 to < 77%
A-	90 to < 93%	C-	70 to < 73%
B+	87 to < 90%	D+	67 to < 70%
B	83 to < 87%	D	63 to < 67%
B-	80 to < 83%	D-	60 to < 63%
C+	77 to < 80%	F	0 to < 60%

COURSE SCHEDULE:

Note: This schedule is subject to revision. I will notify you in class and by email if changes will be made. Exams will not be moved.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
May 18	<i>Introduction</i> <i>Discuss That Hideous Strength</i>	<i>That Hideous Strength</i>
May 19	<i>Abolition of Man</i>	<i>The Abolition of Man (essay 1)</i> <i>Till We Have Faces: Part 1(Chap. 1-3)</i>
May 20	<i>Abolition of Man</i>	<i>The Abolition of Man (essays 2&3)</i> <i>Till We Have Faces: Part 1(Chap. 4-6)</i>
May 21	<i>The Problem of Pain</i>	<i>The Problem of Pain (Preface and Ch. 1-3)</i> <i>Till We Have Faces: Part 1(Chap. 7-9)</i>
May 22	<i>The Problem of Pain</i>	<i>The Problem of Pain (Ch. 4-5)</i>

May 23	<i>Midterm Exam Due</i>	11:59 pm.
May 25	<i>The Problem of Pain</i>	<i>The Problem of Pain (Ch. 6-7)</i> <i>Till We Have Faces: Part 1(Chap. 10-12)</i>
May 26	<i>The Problem of Pain</i>	<i>The Problem of Pain (Ch. 8-9)</i> <i>Till We Have Faces: Part 1(Chap. 13-15)</i>
May 27	<i>The Problem of Pain and The Great Divorce</i>	<i>The Problem of Pain (Ch. 10)</i> <i>The Great Divorce (Preface & Ch. 1-8)</i> <i>Till We Have Faces: Part 1(Chap. 16-18)</i>
May 28	<i>The Great Divorce</i>	<i>The Great Divorce (Ch. 9-end)</i> <i>Till We Have Faces: Part 1(Chap. 19-21)</i>
May 29	<i>Till We Have Faces</i>	<i>Till We Have Faces: all of Part 2 (pp. 285-352)</i>
May 30	<i>Final Exam Due</i>	11:59pm
June 13	<i>Term Paper Due</i>	11:59pm