CASPER COLLEGE COURSE SYLLABUS
ENGL 2490-01 Topics: C.S. Lewis and *The Chronicles of Narnia*

**Semester/Year:** Summer (Mini-mester) 2006

**Course Number and Title:** ENGL 2490-01 Topics: C.S. Lewis and *The Chronicles of Narnia*

**Instructor’s Name:** Dr. Clarence E. (“Jay”) Graham, Jr.

**Lecture Hours:** 3  **Lab Hours:** 0  **Credit Hours:** 3

**Days:** M, T, W, Th, F (10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.)  **Room:** AD 167  **Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Instructor’s Office:** AD 8  **Office Hours:** by appointment  **Office Telephone:** 268-2272

**Dr. Graham’s email:** jgraham@caspercollege.edu

**Course Description:** Includes the reading (and re-reading) of the seven-volume series, *The Chronicles of Narnia* and selections from the collection of essays by Lewis entitled *On Stories and Other Essays*. Lectures and discussions will focus on Lewis’s themes, techniques, education and philosophy, academic writings and duties at Oxford and Cambridge, Christian commitment, and ideas of writing for children. Students will write frequently with the idea that a final, in-class essay will result from matters that emerged during private, in-class writings and conversation.

**Statement of Prerequisites:** ENGL 1020 or Permission of Instructor.

**General Objectives:** Students will develop an appreciation of one of the 20th Century’s greatest intellects—literary scholar, don at Oxford, Professor at Cambridge, author of many scholarly books—who also wrote popular books of Christian apology, science fiction, and children’s literature. We shall also attempt to develop students’ skills of conversing and writing about Lewis and any issues or matters that arise as we read and discuss.

**Specific Objectives (“outcomes”):** Students will read Lewis progress in their understanding of his scholarly life and writings as well as of his children’s books. Also, students will practice articulating in conversation and writing the understanding of the written word.

**Methods:** Lecture and conversation about the readings will predominate, but we shall watch relevant video about Lewis and the *Chronicles* and audio by Lewis. Students will be expected to write, at least semi-formally, about matters that arise.

**Evaluation Criteria:** Presence in class, willingness to participate and consistency of informed conversation, as well as quality of in-class writing, will determine the student’s grade.

**Required Books:** *The Chronicles of Narnia; On Stories and Other Essays.*

**Last Date to Change to Audit or to Withdraw with a Grade of “W”:** See the current calendar of the College in the catalogue or schedule of classes.
Schedule of Assignments:
(tentative, depending on in-class conversations and matters that arise)

English 2490: Topics: C.S. Lewis and The Chronicles of Narnia

May 22 Mon
Hour 1: on C.S. Lewis & intro. to the course
Hour 2: interview with Douglas Gresham (DVD)
Hour 3: discussion: literature & children’s literature

May 23 Tues
Hour 1: The Magician’s Nephew
Hour 2: writing component
Hour 3: discussion: issues and concerns

May 24 Wed
Hour 1: The Magician’s Nephew
Hour 2: writing component
Hour 3: discussion: issues and concerns

May 25 Thur
Hour 1: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe
Hour 2: “On Stories”
Hour 3: writing component

May 26 Fri
Hour 1: The Lion, etc., continued
Hour 2: “On Stories,” continued
Hour 3: in-class writing

May 29 Mon
MEMORIAL DAY: NO CLASS

May 30 Tues
Hour 1: The Horse and His Boy
Hour 2: writing component
Hour 3: discussion: issues and concerns

May 31 Wed
Hour 1: Prince Caspian
Hour 2: “On Three Ways of Writing for Children”
Hour 3: writing component

June 1 Thurs
Hour 1: Prince Caspian
Hour 2: Prince Caspian
Hour 3: writing component; discussion

June 2 Fri
Hour 1: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader
Hour 2: “Sometimes Fairy Stories May Say Best What’s to Be Said”
Hour 3: in-class writing

June 5 Mon
Hour 1: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader
Hour 2: “The Mythopoeic Gift of Rider Haggard”
Hour 3: writing component

June 6 Tues
Hour 1-2: The Silver Chair
Hour 3: discussion; writing component

June 7 Wed
Hour 1-2: The Silver Chair
Hour 3: writing component

June 8 Thurs
Hour 1-2: The Last Battle
Hour 3: discussion; writing component (discussion for final in-class)

June 9 Fri
Hour 1: The Last Battle; The Chronicles of Narnia
Hours 2-3: in-class writing