

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:** **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 their 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: <i>The Magician's Nephew</i> Hour 2: writing component Hour 3: discussion: issues and concerns
May 24	Wed	Hour 1: <i>The Magician's Nephew</i> Hour 2: writing component Hour 3: discussion: issues and concerns
May 25	Thur	Hour 1: <i>The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe</i> Hour 2: "On Stories" Hour 3: writing component
May 26	Fri	Hour 1: <i>The Lion, etc.</i> , continued Hour 2: "On Stories," continued Hour 3: in-class writing
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May 29	Mon	MEMORIAL DAY: NO CLASS
May 30	Tues	Hour 1: <i>The Horse and His Boy</i> Hour 2: writing component Hour 3: discussion: issues and concerns
May 31	Wed	Hour 1: <i>Prince Caspian</i> Hour 2: "On Three Ways of Writing for Children" Hour 3: writing component
June 1	Thurs	Hour 1: <i>Prince Caspian</i> Hour 2: <i>Prince Caspian</i> Hour 3: writing component; discussion
June 2	Fri	Hour 1: <i>The Voyage of the Dawn Treader</i> Hour 2: "Sometimes Fairy Stories May Say Best What's to Be Said" Hour 3: in-class writing
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June 5	Mon	Hour 1: <i>The Voyage of the Dawn Treader</i> Hour 2: "The Mythopoeic Gift of Rider Haggard" Hour 3: writing component
June 6	Tues	Hour 1-2: <i>The Silver Chair</i> Hour 3: discussion; writing component
June 7	Wed	Hour 1-2: <i>The Silver Chair</i> Hour 3: writing component
June 8	Thurs	Hour 1-2: <i>The Last Battle</i> Hour 3: discussion; writing component (discussion for final in-class)
June 9	Fri	Hour 1: <i>The Last Battle; The Chronicles of Narnia</i> Hours 2-3: in-class writing