

## THEO 40238 Transfiguration in the Fiction of C. S. Lewis

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Fall 2016, T-Th 3:30-4:45, DeBartolo 140

### Course Description

This course will look at a theme that runs throughout the works of C. S. Lewis: *theosis*. Christianity's ultimate end is the deification of a person. In Lewis' fiction there is a strong theme of the transfiguration of matter and the human being, and the moral/ascetical prerequisite leading up to it. This course will use secondary theological sources to unpack theosis in light of the Christian doctrines of creation, sin, Trinity, and Christology, and then it will turn to Lewis himself - first to his non-fiction (*Mere Christianity*, *Abolition of Man*, *Weight of Glory* essays), but our main time will be spent in his fiction (*Narnia*, *Screwtape Letters*, *Great Divorce*, *The Pilgrim's Regress*).

### Readings

- C. S. Lewis, *Complete Chronicles of Narnia* (Harper Collins 9780066238500)
- *The Complete C. S. Lewis Signature Classics* (Harper One, 978-0061208492) contains:  
*Mere Christianity* - *The Great Divorce* - *Screwtape Letters* - *The Abolition of Man*  
*The Problem of Pain* – *Miracles* - *A Grief Observed*
- C. S. Lewis, *The Weight of Glory* (HarperOne, 978-0060653200)
- C. S. Lewis, *The Pilgrim's Regress*, (Eerdmans' 9780802872173)
- C. S. Lewis, *Perelandra* (Scribner, 978-0743234917)
- Fagerberg Introduction to the Wonderful World of Narnia, Kindle ebook  
[https://www.amazon.com/C-S-Lewis-Introduction-Wonderful-Narnia-ebook/dp/B01ELKO9MO/ref=asap\\_bc?ie=UTF8#navbar](https://www.amazon.com/C-S-Lewis-Introduction-Wonderful-Narnia-ebook/dp/B01ELKO9MO/ref=asap_bc?ie=UTF8#navbar)
- Fagerberg, "Asceticism in CS Lewis"  
<http://www.touchstonemag.com/archives/article.php?id=17-03-030-f>

### Requirements

The Notre Dame Academic Code of Honor Pledge is observed in this course. "As a member of the Notre Dame community, I will not participate in or tolerate academic dishonesty."

- 2 papers- 25% each. 6-7 pages  
Due to the size of the class, it will be divided into 4 alphabetical groups (A-D) to organize the due dates of papers. I would like it Saturday morning by 7:00 a.m. so I can grade it over the weekend.  
The assignment is the same for each paper: *using only the two readings for the week in which your group falls*, integrate material from the fiction with the nonfiction. You may either (a) take hold of a theological concept and show how it is illustrated in Lewis' fiction, or (b) take hold of a theme in the fiction and show its foundation in the theology. These are not summary reviews, or just opinion pieces. They are examples of how a theological doctrine is made evident in a fictional format.
- Midterm and Final – 25% each, with an objective format (consisting of multiple choice & true false) plus short answer and identification.

95-100 A, 90-94 A-, 87-89 B+, 83-87 B, 80-82 B-, 77-79 C+, 73-77 C

Papers	Topic	Fiction (Tues)	Non-Fiction (Thur)	papers
Aug 23	Intro: course - theosis		<i>dwf - Asceticism in Lewis</i>	
Aug 25	Intro to Lewis		<i>dwf - ebook</i>	
Aug 30	Vices	Screwtape Letters		
Sept 1			Weight of Glory ch 6-8 (30)	
Sept 6	Temptation	Perelandra ch 5-11 (video)		
Sept 8	Fasting		<i>dwf - On Fasting (video)</i>	
Sept 13	The Island	Pilgrim's Regress, Books 1-4		
Sept 15	Morality		Mere Xty, Book III, ch 1-6 (33)	
Sept 20	The Canyon	Pilgrim's Regress, Books 5-7		A
Sept 22	Forgiveness, Faith		Mere Xty, Book III, ch 7-12 (28)	
Sept 27	Grace Perfects Nature	Pilgrim's Regress, Book 8-10		B
Sept 29	finding truth		Abolition of Man	
Oct 4	Beatitude	The Great Divorce		C
Oct 6	Heaven and Hell		Problem of Pain 2, 3, 8, 10	
Oct 11	Midsem Exam			D
Oct 13	Turning toward Narnia		"On Stories"	

## Midsem

Oct 25	Atonement	Lion, Witch and Wardrobe		
Oct 27			Mere Xty, Book II (26)	
Nov 1	Anthropology	Prince Caspian		
Nov 3			Mere Xty, Book I (21) Natural law	
Nov 8	Teleology	Voyage of the Dawn Treader		A
Nov 10			Mere Xty, Book IV, ch 1-6	
Nov 15	Transposition	The Silver Chair		B
Nov 17			Weight of Glory, ch 1, 4	
Nov 22	Christian Behavior	The Horse & His Boy		C
Thanksgiving			(thanksgiving)	
Nov 29	Creation	The Magician's Nephew		
Dec 1			Miracles 1-6 (37)	
Dec 6	Eschatology	The Last Battle		D
Dec 8			Mere Xty, Book IV, ch 7- (44)	