Beowulf in the Works of J.R.R. Tolkien
Fall 2004 – 2nd 8 weeks

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Leslie Donovan, with oversight by Dr. Helen Damico

OFFICE HOURS: Mon. 11:30-1:00, Thurs. 1:30-3:00, and by appointment

CONTACT INFO: UC 20 (Honors Center office), Ground Floor of Student Health Center
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WEBPAGE: Course webpage, http://webct.unm.edu
(Once there, login using your UNM account login ID and password)

DESCRIPTION and OBJECTIVES:
This one-credit course is offered in conjunction with the UNM Institute for Medieval Studies
this course, participants in the one-day seminar will extend their study of the seminar topic by
interacting in online discussion of the seminar topics and preparing a paper that explores in detail
some aspect of the seminar topic. The objective of the course is to explore in greater depth the
ideas raised by the seminar speakers than is possible during the day of the seminar and to allow
students to examine and develop for themselves ideas that can enrich their understanding of the
relationship between the Old English epic and the modern classic of fantasy fiction.

TEXTS:
Beowulf (Any Modern English version).
Seminar Preparation Materials Packet (four-page packet mailed or e-mailed to participants prior
to seminar)
Additional Reading Materials Packet (spiral-bound booklet given to participants on day of
seminar)

GRADES:
Course requirements will earn up to 100 points distributed as follows:

Attendance at Seminar ............................................. 50 points
Introductory Class Session ..................................... 5 points
Electronic Discussion ............................................. 20 points
Project/Paper .................................................... 25 points

Grading scale:
A+ = 100-102; A = 94-99; A- = 90-93;
B+ = 87-89; B = 84-86; B- = 80-83;
C+ = 77-79; C = 74-76; C- 70-73;
D+ = 67-69; D = 64-66; D- = 60-63; F = 0-59
REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance at Seminar (50 points):
Attendance at all portions of the day-long seminar, “Of Heroes and Hobbits: Beowulf in the Works of J.R.R. Tolkien,” is required of all students. The seminar schedule is as follows:

9:00-9:10 a.m.  Welcoming Address
9:10-10:15 a.m. Lecture: “From Beowulf to The Lord of the Rings”

Professor Michael Drout, Wheaton College

10:15-10:30 a.m. Break
10:30-11:30 a.m. Lecture: “Women in Beowulf and Tolkien’s The Lord of the Rings”

Professor Leslie Donovan, University of New Mexico

11:30-1:00 p.m. Catered Lunch
1:00-2:00 p.m. Lecture: “Out of Africa: Tolkien’s Anglo-Saxon Scholarship as a Window into Middle-earth”

Professor Jane Chance, Rice University

2:00-2:15 p.m. Break
2:15-3:30 p.m. Workshop/Panel Discussion

Introductory Class Session (5 points):
From 3:30-4:00 p.m., immediately after the seminar, students registered for the course will meet for an introductory session to discuss course structure and requirements.

Electronic Discussion (20 points):
Between October 29 and November 7, students will participate for a minimum of two total hours discussing seminar topics through and online discussion. To access this discussion, students will login to our course website at http://webct.unm.edu. To login, you will need to use your UNM account ID and password. Once you have logged in to our course website, click on the E-Discussion link on the Course Menu bar on the upper left of the screen. All topics will be posted under the Main category.

Project/Paper (25 points):
During the weeks of 11/8/04-11/19/04, students will interact with me via e-mail or in person in my office to determine and develop a suitable curricular project, research paper, or analytical paper. When completed, this paper or project must be 8-12 pages long and must in some way explore one or more of the topics or ideas raised in the seminar. All papers or projects must be typed (12 point type in Times New Roman or something very similar), double-spaced, on white 8½” x 11” paper, 1” margins all around, with all pages numbered and stapled. Sources should be documented according to the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers. The project or paper may be turned in to me any time after 11/19/04, but no later than 12/9/04.

Extra Credit (5 points):
Students may earn 5 points of extra credit toward their final course grade by attending the Informal Talk with Seminar speakers Jane Chance and Michael Drout, sponsored by the UNM Hobbit Society, on Friday, October 29, 4:00-5:00 p.m. in the UNM Honors Program Forum. This talk will occur immediately after the Introductory Class session.