



NORTHWIND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

The Honorary Inklings:

Dorothy L. Sayers, G. K. Chesterton, George MacDonald,
Warren Lewis, Joy Davidman, and T.S. Eliot

NS-CTSF-525

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Course Description

The Inklings were not an exclusive phenomenon, but rather a group in a longer tradition of literary scholarship and creative writing as practicing poets, novelists, romantic theologians and Christian apologists. This course investigates those who inspired the Inklings and those who were inspired by the Inklings. Although the more popular Inklings were C. S. Lewis, J. R. R. Tolkien, Charles Williams, and Owen Barfield, it is important to underscore the ripple of influence the Inklings had on contemporary culture, and reversely, the kindred spirits who spoke wisdom into the minds of the members.

This doctoral level course features pre-recorded video lectures by faculty and guest lecturers, and digital resources focused on the unique contributions to Romantic Theology of the Honorary Inklings. It is offered as an *individual tutorial* with optional, periodic group discussions for those taking the course at the same time. As an intensive reading course of independent study, students are expected to have already read 6-10 fiction, non-fiction, poetry and/or plays produced by the "Honorary Inklings"; and be ready to read more deeply in selected scholarly works focused on their Romantic approach to theology.

Student learning Outcomes

At the conclusion of the course, the successful student should be able to:

1. Read carefully and critically primary "Honorary Inklings" texts.
2. Describe the basic contents, structure and unique features of the "Honorary Inklings" work.
3. Describe some of the major issues and debates in the scholarly study of the "Honorary Inklings" body of work.
4. Describe the "Honorary Inklings" major themes and their significance for our understanding of Romantic Theology.

5. Demonstrate an ability to engage these major themes and issues in current academic study.

Required Texts:

MacDonald, George. *Princess and the Goblin*. Dover Publications, 2013. [in DTL:
<https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/28941>]

Chesterton, G. K. *Orthodoxy*. New York: John Lane, 1909. [In DTL:
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/onjtx6sqz9ptf5b/Orthodoxy.%20G.%20K.%20Chesterton.%202.3070.pdf?dl=0>]

Davidman, Joy. *Smoke on the Mountain : An Interpretation of the Ten Commandments*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1954.[in DTL:
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/g5pqhuh60039er1/Smoke%20on%20the%20Mountain.%20C.S.%20Lewis.%202245.1.pdf?dl=0>]

Eliot, T.S. (Thomas Stearns), 1888-1965. *Four Quartets*. New York, 1971. [not in DTL may be requested by ILL]

Sayers, Dorothy L. *Letters to a Diminished Church : Passionate Arguments for the Relevance of Christian Doctrine*. Nashville, Tenn.: W Pub. Group, 2004. [not in DTL may be requested by ILL]

Glaspey, Terry W. *75 Masterpieces Every Christian Should Know : The Fascinating Stories Behind Great Works of Art, Literature, Music, and Film*. Chicago: Moody, 2021. [not in DTL may be requested by ILL]

Sayers, Dorothy L. *Are Women Human?* Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans Pub, 2005. (PDF)
Dorothy L. Sayers, *Are Women Human?*

Hurd, Crystal. "An Imaginative Tale from the Father of C. S. Lewis." *Sehnsucht: The C.S. Lewis Journal* 14 (2020): 80–90. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/48669928>.
(PDF) "An Imaginative Tale from the Father of C. S. Lewis," Crystal Hurd

Sayers, Dorothy L. *Christian Letters to a Post-Christian World : A Selection of Essays*. Edited by Roderick Jellema. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1969. [in DTL:
<https://archive.org/details/christianletters0000saye/page/158/mode/2up?q=Dante>]
(PDF) Dorothy Sayers, "Dante and Charles Williams"

Recommended Texts to read or review as time permits

Sayers, Dorothy L. *The Man Born to Be King* (version Wade annotated edition.). Edited by Kathryn Wehr. Wade annotated ed. Downers Grove, IL: IVP Academic, 2023.

Davidman, Joy, and Don W King. *Out of My Bone : The Letters of Joy Davidman*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: William B. Eerdmans Pub, 2009.

Hein, Rolland. *George Macdonald : Victorian Mythmaker*. 1st ed. Nashville, TN: Star Song Pub. Group, 1993.

Chesterton, G. K. *The Everlasting Man*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1993.

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/cyno0iv8m6t85r8/The%20Everlasting%20Man%20-%20By%20G.K.%20Chesterton.pdf?dl=0>

Moulton, Mo. *The Mutual Admiration Society : How Dorothy L. Sayers and Her Oxford Circle Remade the World for Women*. First ed. New York, NY: Basic Books, 2019.

Glyer, Diana. *The Company They Keep : C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien As Writers in Community*. 1st paper ed. Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 2008.

Downing, Crystal. *Subversive : Christ, Culture, and the Shocking Dorothy L. Sayers*. Minneapolis: Broadleaf Books, 2020. [In DTL: <https://www-jstor-org.dtl.idm.oclc.org/stable/j.ctvzcz2cv>]

Davidman, Joy. *A Naked Tree : Love Sonnets to C.S. Lewis and Other Poems*. Edited by Don W King. Grand Rapids, Michigan: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2015. [in DTL: <https://ebookcentral-proquest-com.dtl.idm.oclc.org/lib/dtl/detail.action?docID=4859138>]

Dalfonzo, Gina. *Dorothy and Jack : The Transforming Friendship of Dorothy L. Sayers and C. S. Lewis*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, a division of Baker Publishing Group, 2020.

Digital Resources and Handouts

The Lost Tools Of Learning by Dorothy Sayers

The Works of George MacDonald

Joy Davidman and C. S. Lewis Initial Meeting: Timeline, January 1950--January 1953

COURSE OUTLINE

Each topic will conclude with a ZOOM session following submission of the written assignment. Students should schedule them upon submission of the assignment.

Topic 1. The Predecessors: George MacDonald

Who was George MacDonald and how did his works contribute to the literary and spiritual development of the Inklings?

Read: *"The Princess and the Goblin"* by George MacDonald

View: Terry Glaspey's lecture *"George MacDonald and the Art of the Fairy Tale"*

Assignment: Write 2500-word essay on one of the following subtopics:

1. Fairy Tales as Theology
2. George MacDonald's Impact on C. S. Lewis
3. Alternative topic approved by faculty mentor

Discuss with Faculty Mentor

Topic 2. The Predecessors: G. K. Chesterton

How did the works of G. K. Chesterton contribute to the

intellectual and spiritual development of the Inklings?

Read: *Orthodoxy* by Chesterton

View: Terry Glaspey's lecture: "An Introduction to G. K. Chesterton"

View: Louis Markos's lecture: "An Analysis of *Orthodoxy*" (Parts I and II)

Assignment: Write 2500-word essay on one of the following subtopics:

1. Chesterton's Apologetic Methods
2. Fiction as Apologetics
3. Alternative topic approved by faculty mentor

Discuss with Faculty Mentor

Topic 3. The Contemporaries: Dorothy L. Sayers (Hurd)

How did the Inklings influence detective novelist and playwright Dorothy L. Sayers? How does her work resonate with the works of other Inklings, such as C. S. Lewis and Charles Williams?

Read: Selections from *Letters to a Diminished Church* ("The Greatest Drama Ever Staged," "Dogma is the Drama," "Why Work?," and "The Other Six Deadly Sins")

Read: "Are Women Human?" essay (pdf)

View: Crystal Hurd's lecture: "Dorothy Sayers: The Female Inkling"

View: Crystal Hurd's lecture: "Creeds and Creativity: The Mind of Dorothy Sayers"

Assignment: Write 2500-word essay on one of the following subtopics:

1. Sayers's Spiritual Engagement with Culture
2. Sayers's Approach to Gender and Faith
3. The Significance of the Creeds, Apologetics, or Dogma in Creativity
4. Alternative topic approved by faculty mentor

Discuss with Faculty Mentor

Topic 4. Family and Friends

How did Lewis's early experiences with family and his later experiences with Joy Davidman shape their work? What similar themes are explored in the works of the Inklings and illuminated in the works of the Lewis family, Joy Davidman, and T. S. Eliot?

Read: "An Imaginative Tale from the Father of C. S. Lewis," Crystal Hurd (*Sehnsucht*, Vol. 14) pdf

Read: *Smoke on the Mountain* (Joy Davidman)

Read: *Four Quartets* (T. S. Eliot)

View: Crystal Hurd's lecture: "The Artistic and Spiritual Influences of the Lewis Family"

View: Crystal Hurd's lecture: "Joy Davidman's Role as Editor"

View: Terry Glaspey's lecture on "T. S. Eliot as *Inkling*"

Assignment: Write 2500-word essay on one of the following subtopics:

1. Investigate the literary/spiritual influence of C. S. Lewis's family on his works
2. How Joy Davidman shaped Lewis's later works
3. Compare and contrast Eliot's and Lewis's Approach to Faith
4. Alternative topic approved by faculty mentor

Discuss with Faculty Mentor

Final Paper – *due within 30 days of the completion of topic 4:*

Submit a final paper: either an integrative paper on all four topics, a revised and polished version of one of the four topics, or an alternative topic approved by the faculty.

Instructor Contact

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Crystal Hurd, Ed. D. ntschurd@gmail.com

Northwind Instructional Practices:

This is a class offered in an online format. Online experiences include:

1. Assigned readings
2. Viewing digital resources
3. Video Conferencing
4. Online submission of Papers in the *.doc or *.docx file format

Attendance Policy

This is a short-term intensive course.

You are required to participate in all class assignments and/or sessions.

Your attendance and punctuality will affect your grade in a positive or negative manner.

Statement on Learning and Physical Disabilities

Northwind Institute accepts students with learning and physical disabilities and provides reasonable accommodation to help them be successful.

Grading Policy

Submission of materials does not guarantee a passing grade.

Papers are graded on the following:

- Use of Texts and Lecture

- Use of other Course Materials
- Proper citation and footnotes using Turabian Style

Grade points are applied as follows:

A = 4

A- = 3.5

B = 3

B- = 2.5

C = 2

D = 1

F = 0

Academic Misconduct Policy

Northwind Institute does not condone academic dishonesty in any form. When an act of academic dishonesty has occurred:

1. The instructor has the right to not accept the assignment or test in question and record a "zero" for the assignment or test, and/or require the student to redo the assignment (or test), or require the student to complete a substitute assignment or test.
2. The student may be dropped from the class and assigned a failing grade (F). A written recommendation from the instructor is required.
3. In cases of extreme or repeated incidents (two or more) of academic dishonesty, the student may be suspended from the Institute.

The Academic Dean will notify the student as to the action taken. If the student believes there has been an erroneous accusation made, the student may appeal the action. The student must file a written appeal within 10 working days of notification. The President reviews all written appeals and his decision is final. The Student, Academic Dean and Instructor are informed via email of the action taken.