

*Understanding Tolkien: From the Fifth Century to Today*

ENGL3039: Special Topics

Instructor: Prof. Nick Groom

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This course covers the works of J.R.R. Tolkien in two ways. The first part of the semester will investigate Tolkien's work on Anglo-Saxon and British Medieval literature. This provides an introduction to the second part of the semester, which is devoted to *The Lord of the Rings* and the ways in which the book has been adapted by film-maker Peter Jackson, as well as for *The Rings of Power* series. Areas discussed include heroism, monstrosity, mortality, war, national identity, language, fantasy, and morality.

**CORE TEXTS**

*Beowulf* [in translation]

J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Lord of the Rings*

