

# **C. S. Lewis and Christian Ministry**

MIN 4350.121cs

Online Fall 2019- Term II (10/21 – 12/15/19)

Instructor: Woody Woodrow [woodrow@austingrad.edu](mailto:woodrow@austingrad.edu)

## **Course Description and Goals:**

A study of the life and teachings of C. S. Lewis as a resource for Christian ministry and leadership. Specific models/examples of Biblical leadership and service with their attendant responsibilities and traits/qualities will serve as a touchstone for discerning relevant insights from Lewis's life and work. Students will adopt one or more Biblical models and utilizing Lewisian insights compose a reflective paper on their own ministry calling.

## **Course Requirements:**

1. Students will recall formative events from Lewis's life and briefly describe major literary works.
2. Students will choose one or more Biblical roles of leadership and/or service as their own "working model" for ministry in a social setting—home, church, community, school, foreign missions, job, etc.
3. Students will read seven books by Lewis with a view to relevant insights for Christian service/leadership.
4. Students will seek, reflect, and share their appropriation of Lewisian wisdom to ministry with the instructor and with fellow students.
5. Students will write a reflection paper on the role(s) to which they believe God has called them and how they will serve in this capacity aided by Lewisian wisdom.

## **Course Assessment:**

Exam – Lewis's life and literary works	10%
List and discuss ministry insights from Lewis (7 books)	70%
Final Reflection Paper	20%

### **Required Reading:**

C. S. Lewis, *The C. S. Lewis Signature Classics* (HarperOne, 2017).

Everett Ferguson, *The New Testament Church*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition (ACU Press, 2008).

### **Course Schedule**

Week 1 – Course Introduction

Life and Legacy of Lewis (Part 1)

Week 2 – Life and Legacy of Lewis (Part 2)

Christian Ministry and Leadership Models—Attributes, Actions, Attitudes

Week 3 – *Mere Christianity*

Week 4 – Exam, *The Screwtape Letters*

Week 5 – *The Great Divorce*, *The Four Loves (I)*

Week 6 – *The Four Loves (II)*, *The Problem of Pain*

Week 7 – *The Abolition of Man*

Week 8 – *A Grief Observed*

Final Paper

### **Works by C. S. Lewis:**

*The Abolition of Man*

*The Allegory of Love*

*Boxen*

*Christian Reflections*, edited by Walter Hooper

*The Chronicles of Narnia* (seven volumes)

*The Collected Letters of C. S. Lewis* (three volumes)

*The Dark Tower and Other Stories*

*The Discarded Image*

*An Experiment in Criticism*

*The Four Loves*

*George MacDonald: An Anthology*

*God in the Dock: Essays on Theology*

*The Great Divorce*

*A Grief Observed*

*Letters of C. S. Lewis*, edited by W. H. Lewis

*Letters to an American Lady*

*Letters to Children*

*The Literary Impact of the Authorized Version*  
*Mere Christianity*  
*Miracles: A Preliminary Study*  
*Of Other Worlds*  
*On Stories and Other Essays on Literature*, edited by W. Hooper  
*A Pilgrim's Regress*  
*Poems*, edited by W. Hooper  
*Prayer: Letters to Malcolm*  
*A Preface to Paradise Lost*  
*Present Concerns: Essays by C. S. Lewis*, edited by W. Hooper  
*The Problem of Pain*  
*Reflections on the Psalms*  
*The Screwtape Letters*  
*The Space Trilogy (Out of the Silent Planet, Perelandra, That Hideous Strength)*  
*Studies in Words*  
*Surprised by Joy: The Shape of My Life*  
*Till We Have Faces: A Myth Retold*  
*The Weight of Glory and Other Addresses*  
*The World's Last Night and Other Essays*