C. S. Lewis
0ST620, 2 Hours

Lectures by
J. Knox Chamblin, Ph.D.
This course notebook is for the coordination of your course materials, including reading assignments and lecture recordings. Each course notebook for RTS Distance Education is arranged by the GUIDE acronym. The five components of GUIDE are organized in each lesson by the following steps in the notebook:

**GUIDE**

- **Getting Started** To do the lessons, reading and listening assignments are listed.
- **Understanding** To maximize learning, the purposes are given.
- **Investigating** To explore the content, outlines are provided for note taking.
- **Developing** To expand content, readings are suggested.
- **Evaluating** To help review, lesson questions are based on purposes.
COURSE SYLLABUS
C. S. Lewis, 0ST620 2 hours
Lecturing Professor Dr. J. Knox Chamblin
Professor of Record: Dr. Doug Falls
Reformed Theological Seminary, Distance Education

Lecturing Professor
The late, J. Knox Chamblin was Professor of New Testament at Reformed Theological Seminary in Jackson, MS. He earned the B.D. and the Th.M. degrees from Columbia Theological Seminary and the Th.D. degree from Union Theological Seminary. Dr. Chamblin is the author of Proclaiming the New Testament: Romans and Paul and the Self, as well as a contributor to Continuity and Discontinuity and The Evangelical Commentary on the Bible.

Professor of Record
Dr. Douglas Falls is an ordained minister in the PCA who has been serving as an Associate Pastor at StoneBridge Church in Charlotte, North Carolina since 2002. Prior to that he was at RTS for ten years serving in a variety of capacities, and was the Academic Dean and Associate Professor of Practical Theology at the Charlotte campus when he returned to pastoral ministry. Doug is an RTS alumnus himself having received his M.Div. from the Jackson campus. He also received an Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Argosy University. The life and writings of C. S. Lewis have had a major impact on him, and he enjoys introducing students to the vibrant vision of faith found in Lewis.

Course Description
This course explores and critiques the life, writings, and thought of one of the most gifted and well-known apologists and literary critics of the twentieth century, C. S. Lewis.

Course Objectives
• To become familiar with the basic outlines of the life of C. S. Lewis.
• To gain an understanding of the central themes of Lewis’s writings.
• To appreciate the “intellectual and imaginative power” of the Gospel as described by Lewis.
• To be characterized by a vibrancy of faith as advocated in Lewis’s writings.

Required Textbooks


All required books are available through the RTS Online Bookstore at www.rts.edu/bookstore.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS
C. S. Lewis, 0ST620 2 hours
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Online Student Handbook
The Online Student Handbook has been designed to assist you in successfully navigating the Distance Education experience, whether you are taking a single course or pursuing a certificate or degree program. In it you will find valuable information, step-by-step instructions, study helps, and essential forms to guide you through every aspect of your distance education opportunity from registration to graduation. Please use this resource as your first-stop reference manual. You will find it located at the RTS Distance Education website (www.rts.edu/distance) under the Student Services tab.

Summary of Requirements
• Follow the Study Guide provided
• Listen to all recorded lectures
• Submit response papers
• Complete all readings
• Take comprehensive Final Exam
• Submit Mentor Report/Course Application Paper

Forum Discussions (15%)
The student is required to interact in two (2) forums:
1. Student-Professor Posts (15 total posts)
   A. Personal Introduction Forum: The student is required to post a brief personal introduction to the professor/class. Suggested details include your vocation, where you live, your church background, why you chose RTS, and what you hope to gain through the course (1 required post).
   B. 5 Topical Discussion Q&A Forums: The student is required to answer each topical discussion question with one (1) response. The professor will acknowledge the student’s answer and will follow up with a subsequent question to which the student must also answer with one (1) response. Each topical discussion question therefore requires two (2) total posts/responses from the student (Total of 5 forums x 2 posts =10 total posts).
   C. Student-Professor Forum: The student is required to post four (4) times in this forum. Posts in this forum should focus on course-related content such as research paper topics, lectures and reading assignments, or other academic issues related to the course.
2. Student-Student Forum (5 total posts)
   • A post may be either a new topic or a response to an already existing topic.

Examinations (Final: 40%)
The exam for this course are to be taken online in the Learning Management System (LMS). Please note that you will need to have a proctor for your exams. Your proctor can be anyone except a relative or current RTS Student. After clicking on the exam link you will be given detailed instructions about the exam. Please read these instructions carefully before entering the exam.
Research Paper (30%)

You are required to submit one (1) research paper for this course. You may choose one of the following topics for your paper:

1. Summarize any major episode in Lewis’s life (his conversion, his friendship with Tolkien, his relationship with Joy) and show how it influenced his life, ministry, and writings.
2. Describe Lewis’s work as an evangelist and critique the usefulness of his methods and writings in the contemporary setting.
3. Describe one or more aspect of Lewis’s educational views. Make recommendations for the educational and discipling ministries of the church based upon them. Refer to his didactic writings as well as his fictional writings that present his ideas in more imaginative form.
4. Summarize and critique Lewis’s views on suffering. Be sure to discuss the idea that his beliefs changed with the death of his wife, Joy.
5. Evaluate Lewis’s effectiveness in encouraging Christians to love and follow Christ through his depiction of Aslan in The Chronicles of Narnia. Make recommendations for modern preaching and teaching.
6. Blaise Pascal taught that part of the apologetic and evangelic role of the church is to show humanity the winsomeness of the faith, making them wish it were true. Evaluate how well Lewis accomplished this goal through his writings about heaven. What can the church today learn from him?

The Research paper should be 10-15 pages, doubled spaced, with 6-8 resources and footnotes. Use the 6th edition of A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations, by Kate L. Turabian for formatting guidelines.

Reading Response Paper (10%)

A major objective for this class is to introduce the student to the life and writings of C.S. Lewis. To accomplish this goal, readings have been selected to enhance each lesson and one (1) Reading Response Paper is required. The Reading Response Paper should be four (4) double spaced typed pages. You may choose any one (1) of the C.S. Lewis readings from this course and answer the following questions:

1. What is the main thesis (theses) of the book?
2. How does Lewis illustrate his teaching, or how does Lewis defend his thesis (theses)?
3. What theological or philosophical needs of today’s church does this work address?

Mentor Report/Course Application Paper (5%)

Each Global/Non-Residential student is required to have a mentor submit a report at the end of the course. This report will contribute to 5% of the student’s grade. For students who are not Global/Non-Residential, you are asked to write a 200 word summary of how you perceive what you have learned in this course will fit into the objectives you have for your ministry, your educational goals, or other objectives you wish to achieve in life.

Assignments

Best practice for your time management is for you to submit all assignments at the end of the week in which they fall, using the upload links provided in the LMS. All work must be
submitted by midnight of the course end date, per your course start letter. You are responsible for
turning in all assignments on time; no late submissions are permitted. Any student who needs an
extension must get approval from the Registrar prior to that time.

Contact Information
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E-mail: dess@rts.edu
Web site: www.rts.edu/distance
Lesson One: A Short Biography
The Man and His Writings

Lewis’ Spiritual Pilgrimage
  Preface
  Nominal Christianity
  Atheism
  Joy
  Theism
  Christian Theism

Lewis the Apologist
  Interpreting Modern Man
  Addressing Modern Man
  The Apologist’s Evening Prayer

Lesson Two: Lewis’ Theology
The Holy Trinity
  The True and Living God
  The Triune God

The Saving Work of Christ
  The Fallenness of Creation
  The Incarnation of the Son
  The Ministry of Christ
  The Cross of Christ
  The Exaltation of Christ
  God’s Sovereign Initiative
  The Conquest of Pride
  The Necessity of Radical Change
  Union with Christ

Spiritual Warfare
  Preface
  Christ’s Victory over the Devil
  The Devil’s Pursuit of Believers
  The Devil’s Strategy
  The Believer’s Victory over the Devil
Lesson Three: Revelation
   God’s Creative Activity
   Lewis’ View of the Bible
   A Primer in Literary Criticism
   Understanding Myth
   Some Conclusions
   Other Faiths

Lesson Four: Social and Ethical Issues
   The Three Parts of Morality
   The Seven Vices
   The Seven Virtues
   Morality and Psychotherapy
   Crime and Punishment
   Issues in Education

Lesson Five: The Problem of Pain and the Life Everlasting
   The Problem
   The Ultimate Answer
   The Necessity of Suffering
   Some Biblical Images
   The Shattering of Illusions
   The Ultimate Test
   The Centrality of the Cross
   Self and Other
   Shadowlands: Some Reflections
   The Death of Joy Davidman Lewis
   Hell
   Heaven
   Purgatory
   Heaven and Hell
   Between Today and Tomorrow
For a complete list of Lewis’ works, see Gibb, Light on C. S. Lewis, 121-60, and Lindeskoog, C. S. Lewis, Mere Christian, 238-43 (both under II. below).

WORKS BY C. S. LEWIS


*A Mind Awake: An Anthology of C. S. Lewis*. Edited by Clyde Kilby (1968).

*A Preface to Paradise Lost* (1942).


*An Experiment in Criticism* (1961).


*Dymer* (1950).


*Letters to an American Lady*. Edited by Clyde Kilby (1967).


On Stories, and Other Essays on Literature I. Edited by Walter Hooper (1982).
Out of the Silent Planet (1938).

Perelandra: A Novel (1944).


Present Concerns. Edited by Walter Hooper (1986).

Screwtape Proposes a Toast, and Other Pieces (1965).


Studies in Words (1960).


The Abolition of Man: Or, Reflections on Education with Special Reference to the Teaching of English in the Upper Forms of Schools (1946).

The Allegory of Love: A Study in Medieval Tradition (1936).


The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe (1950).

The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian (1951).


The Chronicles of Narnia: The Silver Chair (1953).

The Chronicles of Narnia: The Horse and His Boy (1954).


The Chronicles of Narnia: The Last Battle (1956).

The Dark Tower, and Other Stories. Edited by Walter Hooper (1977).


The Four Loves (1960).
The Great Divorce (1946).


The Pilgrim’s Regress (1933; revised edition, 1943).

The Problem of Pain (1942).

The Screwtape Letters (1944).

The Shadowlands of C. S. Lewis: The Man Behind the Movie. Selections from the Writings of C. S. Lewis. Edited by Peter Kreeft (1944).


The Weight of Glory, and Other Addresses (1949).

The World’s Last Night, and Other Essays (1960).

They Asked for a Paper: Papers and Addresses (1962).


Till We Have Faces: A Myth Retold (1956).

Transposition, and Other Addresses (1949).

WORKS ABOUT C. S. LEWIS

Aeschilman, Michael D. The Restitution of Man: C. S. Lewis and the Case Against Scientism (1983).


Christensen, Michael J. C. S. Lewis on Scripture: His Thoughts on the Nature of Biblical Inspiration, the Role of Revelation, and the Question of Inerrancy (1979).

Como, James T., ed. *C. S. Lewis at the Breakfast Table, and other Reminiscences* (1979).


Dorsett, Lyle W. *And God Came In* (1983); about Joy Davidman.


Ford, Paul F. *Companion to Narnia* (1980).


Gibson, Evan K. *C. S. Lewis: Spinner of Tales* (1980).


Hannay, Margaret P. *C. S. Lewis* (1981).


Holmer, Paul L. *C. S. Lewis: The Shape of His Faith and Thought* (1976).


______.* Through Joy and Beyond: A Pictorial Biography of C. S. Lewis* (1982).


Keefe, Carolyn, ed. *C. S. Lewis, Speaker and Teacher* (1971).


———. *C. S. Lewis for the Third Millennium* (1994).


______. *Reason and Imagination in C. S. Lewis: A Study of Till We Have Faces* (1984).


Walsh, Chad. *C. S. Lewis: Apostle to the Skeptics* (1949).

## Course Objectives Related to MAR Student Learning Outcomes

**Course:** C.S. Lewis, 0ST620  
**Professor:** J. Knox Chamblin, Ph.D.

### MAR Student Learning Outcomes

In order to measure the success of the MAR curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MAR outcomes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
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| Ø Strong | Historical and theological context of mid-20th Century  
| Ø Moderate | Discusses Lewis’s view of Scripture and interpretation  
| Ø Minimal | Describe Scriptural themes throughout the Lewis’s writings  
| Ø None |  |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</th>
<th>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</th>
<th>Strong</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scripture</td>
<td>Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reformed Theology</td>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanctification</td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desire for Worldview</td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winsomely Reformed/Evangelistic</td>
<td>Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teach</td>
<td>Ability to teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church/World</td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR Specific SLO</td>
<td>An ability to integrate such knowledge and understanding into one’s own calling in society</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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