ADPL 127501     Philosophy in Literature
2015 Fall     4 Credits

Instructor: Peter Kreeft
Office: Stokes 321N
Office Hours: Tue. & Thu. 10-1030 AM, 3-330 PM; also Tuesday evenings just before class, during the mid-class break, and after class (in the classroom).
Telephone: 617-552-3871
Schedule: Tuesday 6:15-9:15

Boston College Mission Statement
Strengthened by more than a century and a half of dedication to academic excellence, Boston College commits itself to the highest standards of teaching and research in undergraduate, graduate and professional programs and to the pursuit of a just society through its own accomplishments, the work of its faculty and staff, and the achievements of its graduates. It seeks both to advance its place among the nation's finest universities and to bring to the company of its distinguished peers and to contemporary society the richness of the Catholic intellectual ideal of a mutually illuminating relationship between religious faith and free intellectual inquiry.

Boston College draws inspiration for its academic societal mission from its distinctive religious tradition. As a Catholic and Jesuit university, it is rooted in a world view that encounters God in all creation and through all human activity, especially in the search for truth in every discipline, in the desire to learn, and in the call to live justly together. In this spirit, the University regards the contribution of different religious traditions and value systems as essential to the fullness of its intellectual life and to the continuous development of its distinctive intellectual heritage.

Course Description
Exploration of such philosophical themes as self-identity, happiness, death, morality, love, truth, fate, God, friendship, violence, hope, and community in two great epics of very diverse form yet surprisingly similar content: Tolkien's The Lord of the Rings (recently voted the greatest book of the twentieth century by two worldwide polls) and Dostoyevsky's The Brothers Karamazov (recently selected the greatest novel written by a Time magazine poll of living writers).
Tues 6:15–9:15, Sept 1–Dec 15, Peter Kreeft

An exploration of what I and many others judge the two greatest novels ever written, emphasizing the implicit and explicit world-views and life-views of the authors as maps of the real world we live in, whether through "fantasy" (Tolkien) or psychological realism (Dostoyevski), using all our psychic tools: reason, intuition, imagination, moral conscience, will, and emotions.

A few decades ago Time magazine polled the writers it considered to be the 30 greatest living authors and asked them to list the 10 greatest novels ever written. The only title that appeared on all 30 lists was THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV. It appeals to an amazing diversity of readers: atheists and theists, pessimists and optimists, cynics and idealists. It is a mirror of the human soul—yours too. Each one of its characters, often labelled "extreme" and "passionate," is to be found in every soul, expressed or suppressed.

Four different polls, some of all English speaking readers and some worldwide, during the first decade of the 21st century, picked THE LORD OF THE RINGS as "the greatest book of the 20th century." One picked it as the greatest book of the last millennium. The only two classes of people who denounced it were literary critics and Marxists/Communists.
Course Objectives
The objectives of this course are not definable by clear criteria or bullet points. The same is true of the methods. It is a "life immersion" rather than a technique. Success and failure, and specifiable objectives in this course, are not definable in terms of educational psychology or "operative definitions," but by wonder and wisdom. If at least one of these two books does not increase those two reactions from you (an increase of wonder and wisdom), it has utterly failed even if you get an A in the course. Walker Percy criticized modern American students for "getting A's in all their courses but flunking Life." If he is right, please be un-American in this course.

Grading
WCAS Grading System
The undergraduate grading system consists of twelve categories: A (4.00), A- (3.67), excellent; B+ (3.33), B (3.00), B- (2.67), good; C+ (2.33), C (2.00), C- (1.67), satisfactory; D+ (1.33), D (1.00), D- (.67), passing but unsatisfactory; F (.00), failure; I (.00), incomplete; F (.00), course dropped without notifying office; W (.00), official withdrawal from course.

Grade Reports. All students are required to log into the web through Agora to access their semester grades. Students must utilize their BC username and password to log on. If your username or password is not known the HELP Desk located in the Campus Technology Resource Center (CTRC) in O'Neill Library will issue a new one. The CTRC requires a valid picture ID (a BC ID, driver’s license or passport) to obtain your password.

Text(s)/Readings (Required)
(1) J.R.R. Tolkien, "On Fairy Stories" in A TOLKIEN READER;
(3) Peter Kreeft, THE PHILOSOPHY OF TOLKIEN;
(4) Fyodor Dostoyevski, THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV (Constance Garnett translation)

Important Policies
http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/advstudies/guide/academicinteg.html

Written Work
Graduate and undergraduate students are expected to prepare professional, polished written work. Written materials must be typed in the format required by your instructor. Strive for a thorough, yet concise style. Cite literature appropriately, using APA, MLA, CLA format per instructors decision. Develop your thoughts fully, clearly, logically and specifically. Proofread all materials to ensure the use of proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling. You are encouraged to make use of campus resources for refining writing skills as needed [http://www.bc.edu/libraries/help/tutoring.html].

Scholarship and Academic Integrity
It is expected that students will produce original work and cite references appropriately. Failure to reference properly is plagiarism. Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not necessarily limited to, plagiarism, fabrication, facilitating academic dishonesty, cheating on examinations or assignments, and submitting the same paper or substantially similar papers to meet the requirements of more than one course without seeking permission of all instructors concerned. Scholastic misconduct may also involve, but is not necessarily limited to, acts that violate the rights of other students, such as depriving another student of course materials or interfering with another student’s work.
Request for Accommodations
If you have a disability and will be requesting accommodations for this course, please register with either Dr. Kathy Duggan (dugganka@bc.edu), Associate Director, Connors Family Learning Center (learning disabilities or AHD) or Dean Paulette Durrett, (paulette.durrett@bc.edu), Assistant Dean for students with disabilities, (all other disabilities). Advance notice and appropriate documentation are required for accommodations. For further information, you can locate the disability resources on the web at http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/libraries/help/tutoring/specialservices.html.

Attendance
Class attendance is an important component of learning. Students are expected to attend all classes and to arrive by the beginning of and remain for the entire class period. When an occasion occurs that prevents a student from attending class, it is the student’s obligation to inform the instructor of the conflict before the class meets. The student is still expected to meet all assignment deadlines. If a student knows that he or she will be absent on a particular day, the student is responsible for seeing the instructor beforehand to obtain the assignments for that day. If a student misses a class, he or she is responsible for making up the work by obtaining a classmate’s notes and handouts and turning in any assignments due. Furthermore, many instructors give points for participation in class. If you miss class, you cannot make up participation points associated with that class. Types of absences that are not typically excused include weddings, showers, vacations, birthday parties, graduations, etc. Additional assignments, penalties and correctives are at the discretion of the instructor. If circumstances necessitate excessive absence from class, the student should consider withdrawing from the class. In all cases, students are expected to accept the decision of the instructor regarding attendance policies specific to the class.

Consistent with our commitment of creating an academic community that is respectful of and welcoming to persons of differing backgrounds, we believe that every reasonable effort should be made to allow members of the university community to observe their religious holidays without jeopardizing the fulfillment of their academic obligations. It is the responsibility of students to review course syllabi as soon as they are distributed and to consult the faculty member promptly regarding any possible conflicts with observed religious holidays. If asked, the student should provide accurate information about the obligations entailed in the observance of that particular holiday. However, it is the responsibility of the student to complete any and all class requirements for days that are missed due to conflicts due to religious holidays.

There may be circumstances that necessitate a departure from this policy. Feel free to contact the WCAS at 617-552-3900 for consultation.

Deadlines
Assignments are due at the beginning of the class period on the specified dates. Late assignments will be graded accordingly.

[Add any specific policies you have about grading of late material.]

Course Assignments (readings, exercises and/or experiences)
It is expected that 8 hours per week of your study time out will be spent on out of class assignments and exercises. These are listed below. Please note that some weeks will require more time and some weeks less time but the average is approximately 8 hours per week over the semester.
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<tr>
<th>DAY</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>9/1</td>
<td>(Introduction to the course)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>9/8</td>
<td>Tolkien, THE LORD OF THE RINGS, volume I, first half</td>
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<td>9/15</td>
<td>Tolkien, THE LORD OF THE RINGS, volume I, second half</td>
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<td>Tolkien, THE LORD OF THE RINGS, all of volume II</td>
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<td>Tolkien, THE LORD OF THE RINGS, volume III, first half</td>
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<td>Tolkien, THE LORD OF THE RINGS, volume III, second half</td>
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<td>Kreeft, THE PHILOSOPHY OF TOLKIEN</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>10/27</td>
<td>Tolkien, A TOLKIEN READER, &quot;On Fairy Stories&quot; and &quot;Leaf by Niggle&quot;</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>11/3</td>
<td>Tolkien, excerpts from THE SILMARILLION (Xeroxed, passed out in class)</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>11/10</td>
<td>Midsemester exam on Tolkien</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td>Dostoyevski, THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV</td>
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