



The Oxford Movement and Beyond

A Literary Revival of Faith, Hope, Love and Imagination in the 19th and 20th Centuries

A COURSE FOR THE STUDY OF 4 AUTHORS IN 1 SEMESTER OR A 2-TERM PERIOD

Course Aims

This course is directed to university students of Literature, Philosophy and Theology who want an introduction to the thought and work of four authors of the so-called English Literary Revival Movement: JH Newman, GK Chesterton, JRR Tolkien and CS Lewis.

The course will provide essential material for the understanding of each individual author in his own social and historical context, as well as the particular biographical vicissitudes, opportunities and decisions that shaped their academic and literary careers and made their intellectual output possible. By the end of the course students should also be able to account for each of the author's main literary works in terms of content, general purpose, reception and influence.

Course Study Materials

Each Section comprises 6 Lessons and –as mentioned earlier– is focused on one author. Each Lesson provides the student with a 24 pages long download file with study texts, charts, commentaries and explanations prepared by the Lecturer and with abundant references for further study. A 15-minute Magisterial Lecture is also available online for the student to watch anytime containing the lecturer's personal insight distillation into the subject. To complete the provision of pedagogical instruments for one lesson, a Virtual Seminar session is scheduled for simultaneous login once a week –with the possibility of posing questions to the lecturer in real time– or to be watched at later moment as a recorded session. A personal phone and email tutoring system adds up to the elements that make this online methodology a most successful and rewarding way to study.

Course Structure

This course presents the learning material in chronological order of four Sections, each of which is devoted to one author. These four Sections are grouped into two Modules, one for the discussion of both authors whose work extends primarily in the 19th century (Newman and Chesterton); and the other for those whose work roughly spans the first half of the 20th century (Tolkien and Lewis). Each author is in turn studied within the context of his own life's personal development as a thinker and as an academic by reviewing, in chronological succession too, those experiences that mark his work and thought with a special reference to those literary or academic contributions for which he is particularly renowned.

As a final chapter in every Section, a Finishing Lesson will convey an appraisal of the particular author's works and thought including a discussion on his contribution to the English Catholic Revival Movement conventionally established in terms of the three Theological Virtues (Faith, Hope and Love) and the Power of Imagination.

Course Study Materials

The complete course is designed to be taken in two consecutive terms, each one spanning over 12 weeks and comprising a Module (two authors), with a ECTS credit value of 6 per module. However, separate Sections can also be taken individually (one for each author) although no credit certification can be contemplated until the module is completed.



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19TH CENTURY AUTHORS

By IAN KER, Senior Research Fellow Blackfriars Oxford:

1. JOHN HENRY NEWMAN

- » The Tractarian Movement
- » Doctrine: The Collapse of the Via Media
- » Novelist and Satirist
- » The Idea of University
- » Newman's Ecclesiology
- » Faith and Reason

2. GK CHESTERTON

- » Life and Thought around the time of "Charles Dickens":
- » Life and Thought around the time of "The Man who was Thursday"
- » Life and Thought around the time of "Father Brown Stories"
- » Life and Thought around the time of "Orthodoxy"
- » Life and Thought around the time of "The Everlasting Man"
- » Life and Thought around the time of "St Thomas Aquinas"

IAN KER is the world renowned Newman scholar with more than twenty books on the subject written or edited by him, including the definitive 751 pages long biography (1988) that consecrated him as the leading expert in this field. More recently (2012) he has published an equally extensive biography (733 pages) on Chesterton that is fast becoming the ultimate reference on this author too.

20TH CENTURY AUTHORS

By IAN KER, Senior Research Fellow Blackfriars Oxford:

3. CS LEWIS

By JASON LEPOJÄRVI, Oriel College Oxford:

- » CS Lewis scholarship
- » The Four Loves: A basic introduction
- » CS Lewis vs St Augustine
- » CS Lewis vs Anders Nygren
- » Divine Love and the Problem of Pain
- » The Perversions of Love

4. JRR TOLKIEN

By Alejandro Rodríguez de la Peña, Research Fellow Wolfson College Cambridge:

- » "Childhood, youth and early travel"
- » "War, Oxford and Academia"
- » "The Inklings and the Hobbit"
- » "The Inklings, The Kilns and War"
- » "Preacher, Broadcaster and Internationally acclaimed author"
- » "Joy and Love in Lewis"

