Regent University serves as a center of Christian thought and action to provide excellent education through a Biblical perspective and global context equipping Christian leaders to change the world.

School of Communication and the Arts Mission
To prepare emerging and established Christian leaders to inspire, enrich and transform the media, the arts, and the academy through excellence and innovation in scholarship and practice.

COURSE SYLLABUS

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION & THE ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION & JOURNALISM

Syllabus: COM 685 (masters’ students)/COM 785 (doctoral students)
C. S. Lewis & Friends: Communication, Myth and Imagination
Summer Semester, 2015

COURSE LOCATION: MODULAR

MEETING LOCATION: OXFORD
Oxford Dates: June 21-June 28

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION
BENSON P. FRASER, PH.D.
ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

AND

WILLIAM J. BROWN, PH.D.
PROFESSOR

All students are required to read and have a thorough understanding of the syllabus. Any questions or concerns need to be addressed to the instructors.
SECTION 1 – COURSE OVERVIEW

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION:

Instructor: BENSON FRASER, PH.D.
Telephone: (757) 352-4227
Fax: (757) 352-4275
E-mail: bensfra@regent.edu

Instructor: WILLIAM J. BROWN, PH.D.
Telephone: (757) 352-4216
Fax: (757) 352-4291
E-mail: willbro@regent.edu

In the subject line of your email, please include the course number (e.g. COM 685) and have your full name in your email signature. Note: All students are required to keep their mailing address, e-mail address, and telephone numbers up to date in GENISYS to facilitate communication between instructors and students.

Office Hours: We are available at all hours while in Oxford–just call our room
Office Location: NA
Best time to contact me: By appointment

This class should prove to be an amazing academic and cultural experience. We will do all we can to challenge you academically and spiritually. Welcome to the city and intellectual world of C. S. Lewis.

SHORT BIO

Dr. Benson P. Fraser has been teaching here at Regent University for over 27 years and he loves teaching in the graduate program. While undertaking studies using various kinds of research methodologies he specializes in qualitative research. His areas of research interest are: media and development, entertainment education, indirect communication and media and celebrity influence. His most recently qualitative work has been published in the Journal of International and Inter cultural Communication and is on Maasai women and development.

His doctoral degree is from the University of Washington and he has taught at several colleges before coming to Regent. Apart from his duties at the university he founded a nonprofit organization called Friends for African Development (FAD) that does ministry and development work in Tanzania and Kenya. Finally, he and Dr. Brown have conducted both academic and professional research in over thirty countries around the world.

Dr. William J. Brown is a professor and research fellow in the Department of Strategic Communication & Journalism, as well as the chair of the department and of the doctoral program in communication. He specializes in the study and use of entertainment-education for social change, health communication, and media and social influence. He has conducted academic and professional research in more than 30 nations for the past 25 years.

In addition to his tenure at Regent University, Dr. Brown has taught communication courses at the University of Southern California, the University of Hawaii and the University of the Nations. He also served as the dean of the School of Communication & the Arts at Regent University from 1992 to 2002. At Regent, he currently teaches courses on doctoral research methods, entertainment-education for social change, media and social influence, C.S. Lewis and
COMMUNICATION, AND COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGNS. DR. BROWN ALSO IS SERVING A FIVE-YEAR APPOINTMENT AS A FULBRIGHT SENIOR SPECIALIST WITH THE FULBRIGHT SCHOLAR PROGRAM IN WASHINGTON, DC.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This class examines the life and work of C. S. Lewis as it relates to our understanding of communication theory and practice. The class will give special attention to Lewis’ contributions to the study of reason, myth and imagination by examining his writings and by exploring the city of Oxford and the people who contributed to his work. Our exploration of the themes and events of Lewis’ life, the influence of his close friends, and the context of the culture in which he lived will help us to better understand why he continues to be so popular and influential among both scholars and practitioners.

Theme Scripture:
Proverbs 27:17 - As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another.

INTEGRATION OF FAITH

To begin this section on the integration of faith and learning, we would like to refer to a brief comment made by John Courtney Murray, given at the inaugural series of St. Thomas More Lectures at Yale University. This class, as Father Murray reminds us, raises the question of the uniqueness of our subject matter and the problem of God amid the whole range of problems that we face. Murray states:

If God is a reality, his reality is unique; it will therefore present to man a unique problem. The problem of God exhibits only the barest analogy with the standard model of a problem as it is found in science. In the scientific world of observation and inference, hypothesis and verification, the data are, as it were, “out there.” The scientist is distant and detached from them; other things being equal any number of men who are scientists can do the same experiment and record the same results. No personal issues arise in the scientific problem. In contrast, the problem of God is primary among the fateful human questions that, as Pascal said, “take us by the throat.” The whole man--is profoundly engaged both in the position of the problem and its solution. In fact, he is in a real sense a datum of the problem itself, and his solution of it has personal consequences that touch every aspect of his conduct, character, and consciousness. Moreover, the problem of God is unique in that no man may say of it, “It is not my problem.” Fyodor Dostoevsky’s challenge is valid: “If God is not, everything is permitted.” But the challenge needs to be amended to include, “except one thing.” If God is not, no one is permitted to say or even think that he is, for this would be a monstrous deception of oneself and of others. It would be to cherish and propagate a pernicious illusion whose result would necessarily be the destruction of man. On the other hand, if God is, again one thing is not permitted. It is not permitted that any man should be ignorant of him, for this ignorance, too, would be the destruction of man. On both counts, therefore, no man may say that the problem of God is not his problem.


As indicated by the quotation above the issues raised in this class speak to the whole of our life not just the academic. We cannot divorce the sacred from the secular, one’s heart from one’s mind, or the God of reason from the God of history.
Furthermore, we engage the content of this class as communication scholars looking at theology and not as theologians looking at communication. By this we mean that you are to respond to questions raised in the class or to specific class assignments as a communication scholar speaking or writing to other scholars in the field. Although the professor provides a framework or structure for the class it is the responsibility of the student to integrate the subject matter of the class into their own worldview.

SECTION 2 – COURSE EXPECTATIONS

COURSE OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

This course will offer a balanced emphasis on theory and practice with the aim of helping each student come to appreciate C. S. Lewis as a communicator, a Christian thinker, and a person. At the end of this course the attentive student should be able to:

A. Recognize and be sensitive to the problems and challenges inherent in engaging, describing, and interpreting the work of C. S. Lewis.

B. Discuss the ideas of some of the key thinkers and theorists that populate his work and have contributed to his writing.

C. Proficiently discuss and writing about some of the key works produced by Lewis.

D. Discuss some of C.S. Lewis’ colleagues and close friends and how they influenced Lewis’ thinking and spiritual development.

E. Discuss some of C.S. Lewis’ major works and the implications of these works for the field of communication study.

REQUIRED MATERIALS

This course will offer a balanced emphasis on theory and practice with the aim of helping each student come to appreciate C. S. Lewis as a communicator, a Christian thinker, and a person. At the end of this course the attentive student should be able to:

Students are responsible for acquiring the following books and materials for this course before the first class meeting:

Textbooks


**Note:** The School has partnered with the Regent Bookstore to have textbooks available for purchase for all students, including distance students. Items may be ordered using the secured online catalog found at [www.regentbookstore.net](http://www.regentbookstore.net).

- Daily access to the Internet and email
- Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint, etc.) version 2007 or later.
- The latest version of a web browser compatible with Blackboard and media players. For assistance, visit the links provided in the Helpful Resources section of the course in Blackboard or contact IT Helpdesk via their website, phone at 757-352-4076, or email helpdesk@regent.edu.
- Additional materials (e.g., PowerPoint files, quizzes, media, and the like) may be provided via Blackboard. Students are responsible for the information and materials distributed in class and on Blackboard (see “Use of Blackboard” below for more information).
- Understand and adhere to the [Regent Honor Code](#) found in the Student Handbook. A persistent link can also be found in Blackboard’s “RU Resources” tab.

**Recommended Course Materials:**


* The Chronicles of Narnia series has seven books. One is required but all are recommended

- Other resources such as writing style guides, Blackboard tutorials, University policies, IT Helpdesk, and information may be accessed via the “RU” and “Helpful Resources” tabs in Blackboard as well as in the Helpful Resources section of this course.

**USE OF BLACKBOARD**

Blackboard will be used to aid communication and delivery of extemporaneous and other content as the semester progresses. We may also utilize the Discussion Board to extend our in-class discussions. Participation in Blackboard does not supplant course requirements for attendance or class participation. Therefore, while access to and use of Blackboard is required for this course, it should not be seen as a surrogate for class attendance or other course requirements. Also, please keep the following in mind:

- All discussion posts should be scholarly in nature and respectful of colleagues.
- Students are expected to check the Announcements section of Blackboard each week beginning one week before the start of the course.
- Students must keep their e-mail address current in Genisys in order to receive communications from Blackboard and the instructor. Students are expected to check their Regent e-mail daily to ensure timely receipt of messages from the professor.

**ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION**

**Attendance is required in order to complete this course.** Students failing to attend a minimum number of campus class meetings will automatically fail the course unless arrangement is made with the professor to take an “Incomplete” grade in order to complete the course at a later date in accordance with University policy (see student handbook for more information about withdrawing from a course or the University or for incomplete grades). To prevent automatic failure of a course, the minimum class attendance is as follows:

- **For a 16 week course:** Must attend at least 9 weeks of campus class meetings.
- **For a 10 week course:** Must attend at least 6 weeks of campus class meetings.
- **For a 5 day Modular (Intensive) course:** Must attend all 5 days of campus class meetings.

**Note:** International students should consult the Office of International Student Services for how immigration status may be impacted if you fail to meet attendance requirements for this course. All students should consult the Financial Aid office for information on how their funding may be impacted as well. International students should consult the Office of International Student Services before registering for a Distance or Modular course.

**In addition, the following attendance requirement applies to this course:**
You are expected to attend all classes.

**In the event of an emergency,** it may be necessary for Regent University to suspend normal operations. During this time, Regent University may opt to continue delivery of traditional classroom instruction using
the Blackboard Course Management System. It is the responsibility of the student to monitor the course Blackboard site in the event of campus closure.

SUBMISSION OF ASSIGNMENTS
Unless otherwise instructed, all assignments for this course must be submitted via the "Assignment Link" found in Blackboard. All files should be submitted using the following naming convention:

YourName_AssignmentName (e.g. John Smith_Essay 1)

- Papers should be in MS Word format (.docx) compliant with the APA writing style guide.

Unless otherwise stated in Blackboard, no assignment will be accepted if submitted via any method other than Blackboard. It is recommended that students give themselves a buffer of time before the deadline to allow for trouble-shooting should your upload attempt fail. Students should look at the assignment submission page to verify that the submission was successful.

Late Assignments
Late assignments will not be accepted without substantial lowering of your grade.

NOTE: Technical difficulties when submitting to Blackboard will not be accepted unless documented by the IT Help Desk. The IT Help Desk is your first point of contact for problems with Blackboard. Deadline extensions will be allowed only when a system issue occurring on Blackboard’s side is documented by Regent University IT department.

METHOD OF EVALUATION
The final grade for the course will reflect mastery of course content and quality of thought as expressed in:

Because of the brief and intense nature of this course, it is critical that all assignments be completed on time.

A. All required reading must be completed and “digested” before the class period they are due. Because this class meets at Oxford, England for only seven days, **you need to read the required texts before the on-campus portion of the class begins at Oxford.** Although we will be discussing the readings from the texts during the formal meeting times, there is not enough time for you to read all the material assigned if you wait until you arrive at Oxford.

B. Each student will orally present two written abstracts summarizing and analyzing two of the works of C.S. Lewis from either his required or recommended works as noted previously. These abstracts are to be approved by the Professors before the on-campus portion of the class. They will need to be presented in Oxford and will be assigned the first day of the class at Oxford. The papers need to be turned in on a threaded discussion of blackboard.

C. Each student will create a Screwtape blog, mimicking Lewis’ style in his work, *Screwtape Letters.* The blog will be a senior devil writing to a junior devil, just as Uncle Screwtape wrote to his nephew Wormwood. The professors will create a thread for this assignment to be turned in. You are required to write at least three separate blogs.
D. Each student must submit a final academic paper (20-25 papers for doctoral students; 15-20 for masters’ degree and undergraduate students) on any aspect of the life or writings of C. S. Lewis. Papers should include a literature review, analysis and interpretation, and any applicable theoretical observations or insights made by the student. All papers must follow the APA guidelines (6th edition). Papers must cite scholarly published articles or book chapters of other scholars (12-15 for doctoral students; 8-12 for masters’ degree and undergraduate students).

Course Evaluation:

- In-class discussion and participation 30%
- Abstracts and presentations 20%
- Screwtape blog 15%
- Final paper 35%

Grading Rubric
Each of the assignments will receive a grade based on the above criteria. The assignments will be weighted as the percentages incident above. The grading rubric below will be used to calculate the final grade.

The following grading scale will be used:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage Score</th>
<th>Quality Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>96-100</td>
<td>4.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>93-95</td>
<td>3.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>90-92</td>
<td>3.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>3.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>81-84</td>
<td>2.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>78-80</td>
<td>2.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>75-77</td>
<td>2.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>71-75</td>
<td>1.67</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>68-70</td>
<td>1.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>65-68</td>
<td>1.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D-</td>
<td>60-65</td>
<td>0.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
SECTION 3 – SCHEDULE AND EVALUATION

COURSE SCHEDULE

The schedule below includes the due dates for all assignments in this course. It is recommended that you place this Course Schedule in a convenient place and refer to it each week of the course. You need to follow it closely, as late assignments may be subject to a grade reduction.

Prologue: May 11 to June 20 - In this distance portion of the class we will assign course readings and contemplation questions to help you reflect on the assigned readings.

Modular Week:

Planned Schedule

(Weather and other circumstances may cause changes to the schedule)

**June 21 (Sunday)**

**Topics:** Lewis and the Church
Oxford: the man of the city

**Activities:**
- Walking tour of the city and High Tea
- Evensong

**June 22 (Monday)**

**Topics:**
- Lewis’ apologetics
- J. R. R. Tolkien & C. S. Lewis: Authors and friends
- *The Life and Imagination of C.S. Lewis*
- Class room lecture and discussion of *C. S. Lewis – A Life* & *Mere Christianity*

**Readings (Books):**
- *The Narnian*
- *Mere Christianity*

**Activities:**
- Tour of Merton College
- Walking tour to The Trout Inn

**June 23 (Tuesday)**

**Topics:**
- Lewis’ autobiographical and scholarly work
- Lecture
- Crucibles of thought (publications of Lewis & friends)

**Readings (Books):**
- *Four Loves*
- *Surprised by Joy*

**Activities:**
- We will visit the Kilns, Lewis’ home, and his church
**June 24 (Wednesday)**

Topics:
- Lewis’ fiction work and practical theology and discussion of readings
- Lewis: Myth and Imagination

Readings:
- *Screwtape Letters*
- *The Great Divorce*

Activities:
- We will visit Magdalene College where Lewis taught

**June 25 (Thursday)**

Topics:
- Lewis’ fiction work and worldview
- Classroom in the morning

Readings:
- *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*
- *That Hideous Strength*

Activities:
- We will visit the Bodleian Library and Iffley.

**June 26 (Friday)**

Topics: Paper proposal presentations

Readings:
- *The Narnia Code: C. S. Lewis and the Secret of the Seven Heavens.*

Activities:
- We will visit St. Mary of the Virgin Church and St. Cross’ cemetery

**June 27 (Saturday)**

Day on your own - suggested activities:
- Day-trip to London
- Self-guided tour of Christchurch
- Punting on the Thames
- Visit to Winston Churchill home (a castle)
- Other: you can choose your own activities for this day but we recommend that you travel in groups of two or more if you do decide to travel.

**June 28 (Sunday)**

Church Option: St. Aldates if you have a late afternoon or evening flight

Activities: Depart for Airport or continue on your journey elsewhere

**Epilogue (Weeks after Modular Week): June 29 to August 1**

In this last portion of the class students will be researching and writing their final paper, which is due on August 1, 2014 and to be turned in on Blackboard.
SECTION 4 – PROGRAM GOALS

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION AND THE ARTS MISSION STATEMENT
To prepare emerging and established Christian leaders to inspire, enrich and transform the media, the arts, and the academy through excellence and innovation in scholarship and practice.

PROGRAM GOALS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION & JOURNALISM.

Ph.D. in Communication
1. **Christian Worldview**: Development of Christian worldview as professionals working in the field of communication study.
2. **Academics**: Exploration of at least a dozen important theories of human communication and of the three common methodological approaches used to conduct communication research.
3. **Christian Community**: Development of Christian community at Regent University through interactions with other Regent University students, faculty and staff.
5. **Global Competence**: Understanding of international and intercultural communication through interactions with international students, communication scholarship, and travel to other countries for teaching, research and ministry.

M.A. in Communication; Major: Strategic Communication
1. **Christian Worldview**: Development of a personal Christian worldview as professionals working in the field of communication with specialization in strategic communication.
2. **Academics**: Exploration of at least a dozen theories of human communication and knowledge of the common methodologies used to conduct communication research.
3. **Christian Community**: Development of Christian community at Regent University through interactions with other Regent University students, faculty and staff.
4. **Mission Impact**: Knowledge of the global implications of technologies used for strategic communication.
5. **Global Competence**: Understanding of international and intercultural communication through interactions with international students, communication scholarship, and travel to other countries for teaching, research and ministry.

SECTION 5 – UNIVERSITY POLICIES

Students should become familiar with all university policies as outlined in the Student Handbook including:

- Disability services
- Regent Honor Code (as an academic and Christian community, Regent University takes seriously the call for integrity and penalizes breaches of academic integrity.)
- Withdrawing from a course or the University
- Discipline policies

A link to the Student Handbook can also be found in Blackboard’s “RU Resources” tab along with links to University Library, Student Services, University Bookstore, academic writing assistance resources, and more.

Blackboard’s “Help” tab provides additional resources including:

- Blackboard tutorials
- IT Help Desk contact information

Regent University, COM 685 Course Syllabus
STUDENT COURSE EVALUATION

Students have the opportunity to provide feedback throughout the course through e-mail, telephone, and on-campus appointments. Near the end of the course, students will complete an anonymous online course evaluation form. Since the results contribute to improving course design and presentation, it is important that students be honest and constructive in their evaluations. Students will receive an e-mail reminder from the University when it is time to complete these evaluations. Please take time to provide this input. Students can access the online evaluation system at:

http://eval.regent.edu/regent/survey/students.cfm

If you have questions about the online evaluation please contact evaluation@regent.edu.

This syllabus is subject to change without notice.

Last updated: 4/24/2015

Regent University
1000 Regent University Drive, Virginia Beach, VA, 23464
Phone (888) 718-1222
©2015 Regent University, All Rights Reserved.