

# ENGL 2237

## Elves and Wizards and Orcs, Oh My!: Introduction to Fantasy Literature

### General Information

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**Instructor:** Thor Polukoshko [tpolukoshko@langara.ca](mailto:tpolukoshko@langara.ca) (Office: A205)

**Course Times:** Monday/Wednesday 12:30 - 14:20

**Credits:** 3 (for information about transfer credit, visit [bctransferguide.ca](http://bctransferguide.ca))

### Course Description

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Based on the continued success and popularity of franchises such as *Game of Thrones* and *Harry Potter*, the fantasy genre is going strong. What is it about magic and fantastical creatures that keeps us coming back for more? And what do these supernatural worlds and characters tell us about the world we live in? This course will explore the history, development, and significance of the fantasy genre. Beginning with the roots of fantasy in mythology, folklore, and fairy tales, we will work our way through a range of important texts, from Tolkien and Le Guin to contemporary writers who destabilize the predominantly Eurocentric understanding of the genre, including Rivers Solomon and Darcie Little Badger. Part of the course will involve participating in and analyzing your own collaborative narrative from an in-class *Dungeons & Dragons* adventure.

### Course Texts

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- J. R. R. Tolkien – *The Hobbit*
- Wayde Compton – *The Blue Road*
- Amos Tutuola – *The Palm Wine Drinkard*
- Darcy Little Badger – *Elatsoe*
- Rivers Solomon – *The Deep*
- Rob Reiner (dir.) – *The Princess Bride*
- Jared Bush & Byron Howard (dir.) – *Encanto*
- *Dungeons & Dragons: Player's Handbook* (5<sup>th</sup> Edition)
- ENGL 2237 Courseware Package (including critical articles, excerpts, and short stories such as *The Poetic Edda* (Norse mythology), *Beowulf*, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, Homer's *The Iliad*, Edmund Spenser's *The Faerie Queene*, *Grimm's Fairy Tales*, Gabriel Garcia Marquez's "A Very Old Man with Enormous Wings," and Ursula K. Le Guin's "The Word of Unbinding")

**\*course texts are subject to change before the semester begins**