

Name/Date:

**MIDDLE EARTH 12**    *“Not all who wander are lost”*  
**MR. THIELMANN**    **D.P. TODD SECONDARY • Feb 2014**



**Overview**

- Regular 4 credit, one-block course, but with unique learning design
- Focus on broad Humanities outcomes with key literary examples drawn from Tolkien’s Middle Earth, local writers and environments, and other Fantasy Sci- Fi fiction
- Example topics include: Art, History of Language, Ecology, Cultural Anthropology, Technology, Fan Fiction, Architecture, Geography, Literature, Cartography, Medievalism, Cuisine, and Writing for an Audience
- Student choice for major assignments, no provincial or school exam, more project-based
- Designed for students who read and write well, or can synthesize ideas across many subject areas
- Earn a full Grade 12 graduation course credit, fully recognized by UNBC for academic entrance credits

**Resources**

- books: our library has a good collection of sci-fi and fantasy titles including many by or about Tolkien
- website: <http://dpts.sd57.bc.ca/~gthielmann> check marks, more links, teacher and students stuff
- teacher contact: email [gthielmann@sd57.bc.ca](mailto:gthielmann@sd57.bc.ca) or see all the options at <http://thielmann.ca>
- blog: extended ideas and discussions for students -- <http://middleearth12.blogspot.com>

**Rules**

I don’t have many... mostly I expect that students will operate with a few principles in mind:

- mutual respect -- treat the students, teacher, and learning space with dignity, safety, and calmness
- self-reliance -- take responsibility for your actions, attendance, work habits, expected work & progress
- balance -- there is a season (and time in class) for everything: teacher, student, together, alone, tech, no-tech
- curiosity -- ask thoughtful questions of your self, teacher, and classmates, and ask for help when you need it

In exchange, I will strive to make the class time as positive and productive as possible, minimize homework, and keep the focus on critical thinking, meaningful connections (including personal ones), and strong learning about our topics. I invite you to be active participants in how this course and classroom experience unfolds.

**Assessment**

- Projects - about 25% - one or two student-designed multi-faceted projects
- Assignments - about 25% - smaller projects and tasks that come out of our lessons, including a variety of short student-prepared presentations
- Badges - about 25% - skills and accomplishments selected and assessed by both the students and the teacher
- Tests - about 25% - some of the main ideas and skills that we will emphasize will be tested, e.g. in-class essays, critical thinking questions, your thoughts on the big ideas, questions about specialized vocabulary, concepts, and problems from the lessons

**Caveat**

This is a brand new course (perhaps unique on the planet), and you are the first cohort to give it a try, so expect some experimentation and deviation from the path as you see it above. In the least, expect a meandering path, for those who wander off the path may indeed become drowsy and never find their way out of Mirkwood.

Artwork of the Brothers Hildebrandt  
<http://www.timefold.com/snapsite/hildebros/public/html/page9.html>

