

ESSAY ASSIGNMENT ON C. S. LEWIS'S DIALOGUE WITH MODERNITY

Choose **one** of the specific topics that follow (1-17) and write a 1250-1750-word essay on the larger theme of *C. S. Lewis's Christian dialogue with modernity* in regard to the topic chosen. In your essay you should (a) identify Lewis's traditional Christian position on the issue in question, (b) articulate how some representative of "modernity" might respond to Lewis's position on the issue, and (c) describe how Lewis, himself, might respond to the modernist's assessment. *In your essay be sure to identify clearly the central concerns of the dialogue partners.*

The paper should be based on some portion of your reading designated in the topic descriptions and not on consultation of library or internet or AI resources beyond the course syllabus. At the same time, within the group of readings designated, you should zero in on a limited number of points or lines of argument in any number of the readings specified. In a paper of this length, one cannot cover every relevant topic and issue in all the works specified.

The essay is due on March 7 class time **in both (1) electronic copy sent as attachment to via email to [REDACTED] and (2) in class.** Late papers will be penalized

1. Lewis on Christianity as "myth become fact."
 "Letter to Arthur Greeves" (excerpt)
 "Is Theology Poetry"
 Mere Christianity
2. Lewis's position on modern biblical historical criticism and modern biblical interpretation.
 "Modern Theology and Biblical Criticism"
 "Letter to John Beversluis" (excerpt)
 Miracles
3. Lewis on theology as poetry.
 "Is Theology Poetry"
4. Lewis's position on naturalism/materialism.
 "Is Theology Poetry"

Mere Christianity
Miracles

5. Lewis's "argument from desire."
 "The Weight of Glory"
 Mere Christianity (in the section on Hope)
6. Lewis on "transposition."
 "Transposition"
 Mere Christianity
7. Lewis on atheism and/or agnosticism.
 Mere Christianity
 Miracles
8. Lewis on evil and God's existence/justice.
 Mere Christianity
9. Lewis on the atonement and Christ.
 Mere Christianity
10. Lewis on Jesus as divine.
 Mere Christianity Book Two, Chapter 3
11. Lewis on one or two of the cardinal and/or theological virtues.
 Mere Christianity Book Three
12. Lewis on pride as sin.
 Mere Christianity Book Three
 "The Inner Ring"
13. Lewis on divine foreknowledge, time, prayer, etc.
 Mere Christianity Book Four
14. Lewis on the Trinity.
 Mere Christianity Book Four
15. Lewis on miracles.
 Miracles
 "Transposition"

16. Lewis on moral skepticism, moral relativism, moral nihilism.

Mere Christianity

Miracles

17. Lewis on Christian community vs. individualism, collectivism, egalitarianism.

Mere Christianity

“Membership”