

Summary

In this class, we will explore the later history of Arda, the world created by the great author JRR Tolkien. We'll start off with a snapshot of the First Age: who the big players were, what they did, and where we're at now. Then we'll move forward to talk about the rise and fall of Númenor, the forging of the rings, the return of the Númenoreans to Middle Earth, the forging of Arnor and its gradual collapse, the corruption of Mirkwood, and even a bit of the ending of the Third Age *vis a vis* The Hobbit and The Lord Of The Rings. The short time available to us lends itself to a skimming overview, and so we will be unable to dwell in any sort of depth, but I'm confident we will be able to paint an accurate history in broad strokes, with time for an amusing anecdote here or there sure to make you the life of any party.

Topics to be covered

- Discussion of historical texts
 - Akallabêth, Of the Rings of Power and the Third Age
 - Aldarion and Erendis, Disaster of the Gladden Fields, Cirion and Eorl
 - The Appendices
- The Story So Far
 - Happenings of the First Age: Morgoth, Sauron, the Two Trees, the Elves, the War of Wrath, the three houses of the Edain
- Overview of the Timeline
- Various battles, wars, and sieges
- Nations of Note
 - Númenor
 - Arnor, Gondor, Rohan
- Historical Figures