

C.S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*
Temptations, human tendencies, & God
Fall 2006 – Boston Chinese Evangelical Church

Course Description:

This class will discuss C. S. Lewis' book *The Screwtape Letters* as a springboard to biblical texts and ideas about human temptation, sin, human tendencies, and God. *The Screwtape Letters* is satire in that Lewis writes as an older devil composing letters to a younger devil. The older devil, Screwtape, gives advice and insight into the devils' perspective on the battle for souls.

Meeting Time and Place:

We will meet in Josiah Quincy Elementary School cafeteria from 11:15-12:30PM every Sunday unless otherwise noted.

Learning Objectives:

At the end of the semester, the student will be able to:

1. Read (at least portions of) the well known Lewis book *The Screwtape Letters*.
2. Discussed and shared ideas about sin and temptation with other students.
3. Identify what biblical insights and temptations in helping you understand how you are tempted and how God saves.

Textbooks:

Required Texts:

The Bible, preferably the New International Version, New American Standard Version.
Lewis, C.S., *The Screwtape Letters*, in any of its recent versions.

Course Schedule:

See last page of syllabus.

Course Assignments & Requirements:

Each class we will focus on one of the chapters of the book. For that chapter, you are expected to read it before class and answer any questions about it beforehand. I expect you to complete both reading and writing assignments before class (and not during Sunday Service!).

Grading Scale:

If I were to assign a grade to you for this class, it would largely be based upon your completion of the reading assignments, homework, and participation in class. I encourage you to think about those as the metrics by which to gauge if you've given this class your due attention in your spiritual formation.

Course Expectations:

I want to have a fun, open class time. But I also expect you to be respectful towards me and your peers in your words, actions, and timeliness. I hope to see you in class, and encourage you to participate freely and openly.

Feel free to contact me as well. My contact information is listed below.

Instructor Information:

Enoch Liao, Director of Student Ministries (English) for Boston Chinese Evangelical Church

Office Hours: by appointment.

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Virtual Office (for course materials):

<http://web.mac.com/enochliao/iweb/bcecstudentministry/Welcome.html>

Course Schedule

Lesson	Date	Topics	Reading/Assignment Due
1	Sep 10	Introduction to Course	
2	Sep 17	Nature of the devil	Preface (1960) to <i>The Screwtape Letters</i>
3	Sep 24	Reason and God	Chapter 1
4	Oct 1	Eternal security; justification & sanctification	Chapter 2
5	Oct 8	God's will; prayer and our feelings	Chapter 4
6	Oct 15	Belief in demons, materialist magicians; extreme devotion to anything besides Christ	Chapter 7
	Oct 22	Substitute/Class Cancelled: Enoch away	
7	Oct 29	Human Undulation; Pleasure as God's invention; Humon	Chapters 9, 11
8	Nov 5	Spiritual Deception and the "Safest Road to Hell"	Chapter 12
9	Nov 12	Real pleasure & pain; Losing one's self to God; Humility	Chapters 13, 14
10	Nov 19	Church that "Suits" Us	Chapter 16
	Nov 26	Thanksgiving Activity	
11	Dec 3	Sex and Being "In Love"	Chapter 18
12	Dec 10	Owning 24 Hours	Chapter 21
	Dec 17	Death & Safety, Final Exam	Chapters 28, 31
	Dec 24	Special Class	
	Dec 31	Break	
1	Jan 7	Next Course Begins, Topic TBA	

