



FCMUN VIII

At Mount Holyoke College

March 27th - March 29th

Welcome Letter

Dear Delegates,

My name is Daniela and I'm a sophomore at Mount Holyoke majoring in neuroscience and double minoring in chemistry and public health. My academic area of interest is studying the underlying causes of and treating depression. I am pre-med and hope to do work to raise awareness about the mental health stigma in the US. I am in the Mount Holyoke Glee Club and am on the executive board of the tabletop roleplaying game club here. I have been doing Model UN since high school and am a member of our traveling Model UN team. I love Lord of the Rings and fantasy in general. Tolkien's universe gives us so much to work with and I am so excited to direct this committee for you, I think we will have a lot of fun together.

Best,
Daniela Rakhlina-Powsner

Committee Background

While this committee and its members are based on the plot and characters of the Lord of The Rings trilogy, I do not expect us to stay true to the events of the novels and reading the novels is not required, though it will be useful for preparation as knowing about the world is crucial not to mention they are fantastic books. This committee does not directly mimic any gathering in the novels or the movies, which are another good source of information. The characters will all be taken directly from the books, and will attempt to work together to reach a common goal even if they did not do so in the books. While most of you will aim to defeat Sauron, it is possible that you may switch allegiances part way through. It's also important to note that just because a character was good in the books, does not mean that they will be by the end of the weekend.

Our committee begins as the Dark Lord Sauron begins to amass his army. The members of the Fellowship of the Ring have set out towards Mordor so that the ring bearer, Frodo may destroy the ring in the fires of Mount Doom. All in Middle Earth have a stake in this conflict for if Sauron is victorious, all who challenge him will be destroyed. Among the cities of men there are several leaders: Denethor, steward of Gondor, King Theoden of Rohan and Aragorn, rightful heir to the throne of Gondor. To aid in the quest there are beings of great wisdom, Gandalf, a wizard and an old friend of Frodo's as well as Saruman the white, leader of the Istari, a very powerful wizard. Sauron's spies are everywhere and some that you thought trustworthy may not be as honest as you thought. All races must unite to defeat this great foe. Some among you have formed the Fellowship of the Ring. This group is specifically dedicated to the task of taking the One Ring to Mordor and destroying it in the fires of Mount Doom, the volcano where it was forged. The creature Gollum is following them because he was in possession of the ring for many years and it has irreversibly corrupted him and all he cares about it regaining it.



Map of Middle Earth

Characters

Frodo Baggins

Frodo is the ringbearer, personally tasked with bringing the One Ring to the fires of Mount Doom. He inherited the ring from his Uncle Bilbo who kept it secret for many decades. A volunteer for the very challenging task ahead, he is very brave but already the ring has started to affect him. His best friend is Sam. He is a member of the Fellowship of the Ring.

Gandalf

A wizard of great power, Gandalf is concerned both for the wellbeing of Frodo and Middle Earth as a whole. He will not touch the ring for fear it will corrupt him and maintains that the ring must be destroyed as no one can control its power. He is a member of the Fellowship of the Ring.

Samwise “Sam” Gamgee

Sam is the gardener for the Baggins family and is Frodo’s best friend. Completely loyal, everything he does is to protect Frodo even if Frodo doesn’t always realize it initially. He will follow Frodo until the very end, no matter what. He is a member of the Fellowship of the Ring.

Faramir

The younger brother of Boromir and son of Denethor, Faramir has always come in second to his brother in his father's eyes. His two greatest wishes are to make his father proud and protect Gondor, his home. He is willing to go to any lengths to achieve these.

Boromir

The older brother of Faramir and son of Denethor, Boromir is his father's pride and joy. A great soldier he has proven himself time and again in battle defending Gondor from enemies such as Orcs. He is willing to do anything to protect his home and believes Gondor should be give the ring. Being close to the ring for so long has been taxing on him. He is a member of the Fellowship of the Ring.

Saruman

The leader of the Istari order, Saruman is the most powerful of the great wizards. He rules from his tower Isengard. An early opponent of Sauron, lately his loyalties have not been as clear. Grima Wormtongue

An advisor to King Theoden of Rohan, Grima is a sly, untrustworthy man although the King trusts him. He desires the King's niece, Eowyn.

King Theoden

The King of the nation of Rohan, he is greatly concerned for the safety of his people. Lately he has been acting strangely and many believe his trusted advisor, Grima Wormtongue to be secretly running things.

Eomer

The nephew of King Theoden, Eomer is a leader in Rohan. Very mistrustful of Grima he is convinced that the man is treacherous. He is loyal to his country and close to his sister Eowyn who he is determined to protect. One reason he dislikes Grima is because of how he looks at his sister. A skilled warrior he commands part of the army.

Eowyn

The niece of King Theoden and the sister of Eomer, she has been overshadowed by powerful men all her life. They are determined to protect her and keep her away from danger. However, she wishes to defend her country in battle. Skilled with a weapon, she is capable of defending herself and only fears the cage she feels her relatives put her in

Denethor

The steward of Gondor, father of Faramir and Boromir, Denethor wishes to protect his people. He loves his son Boromir but feels disappointed in his less militarily successful son Faramir. He wishes to gain the ring to protect Gondor.

Legolas

An elven prince, Legolas is the son of Thranduil ruler of Mirkwood. He is exceptionally skilled in many things such as tracking, archery, and swordmanship. He is mistrustful of dwarves but respectful to men, particularly Aragorn. He also is very respectful of Gandalf. He is a member of the Fellowship of the Ring.

Gimli

A dwarf of the famed House of Durin, Gimli is a fierce warrior. He wishes to protect Middle Earth and the rest of the dwarves. He has a strained relationship with the elf Legolas because of historic mistrust between their kinds and the fact that Legolas' father once kept Gimli's father, Gloin, imprisoned. He is a member of the Fellowship of the Ring.

Aragorn

The rightful heir to the throne of Gondor, and the descendent of the man who once defeated Sauron, Aragorn is destined for great things. He is one of the Dunedain, descended from the Numenoreans of old, who live much longer than average men. His parents died when he was young and he was raised by the elves of Rivendell. He is in love with the daughter of Rivendell's leader, Arwen. He was one of the Ranger's of the North and is a skilled swordsman but is also skilled at archery and tracking. Many place their faith in him. He is trusted by the elves but has clashed with Boromir has on occasion because the other man feels he hasn't protected his kingdom. He agrees with Gandalf that the ring must be destroyed. He is a member of the Fellowship of the Ring.

Meriadoc "Merry" Brandybuck

A hobbit of the Shire and best friends and the cousin of Pippin, he is a very intelligent and perceptive person. He volunteers to join the quest because he is very loyal and a good friend to Frodo and Sam. He is a member of the Fellowship of the Ring.

Peregrin "Pippin" Took

The best friend and cousin of Merry and the 2nd cousin of Frodo, Pippin feels that the hobbits need to stick together. He is very young and as such initially Elrond wished to prevent him from joining the fellowship and instead have him warn the residents of the Shire. Gandalf believes in loyalty however and allowed him to go. Since he is younger, he is less mature than the rest of his compatriots. He will stick with Merry as much as he can. He is a member of the Fellowship of the Ring.



Challenges and Topics

Internal Issues

- The ring will begin to tempt people to turn them towards Sauron's side. The ring is a very powerful object with the power to weaken the wills of even the strongest. The ring has a motivation of its own-to return to Sauron. As such, anyone who is in possession of it is at risk of turning to Sauron's side and will inevitably be somewhat changed before long.
- Golum will try to steal the ring and his multiple personality disorder will cause confusion and strife between Frodo and Sam. The creature Golum wishes nothing more than his ring back and he will be a frequent obstacle in your journey. Be wary, he may turn members of the party against each other.
- The difference in characters' fighting skill levels for determining strategy.
Some amount of battle and strategy will be necessary for best addressing the obstacles in your path. Different characters have different strengths and a good strategy will take advantage of those. It may behoove you to appoint a leader to command all military matters.
- Differences of opinion on what to do with the ring.
Not everyone agrees with what to do with the One Ring, internal conflicts are likely to arise because of this key issue
- If characters turn to Sauron, they will have to decide whether to try and save them or defeat them.
Some of you may change your allegiances, the rest of you will have to decide what to do with the traitors.

Physical Issues

- The physical strains of the journey will cause them to have to change their plans and delay the journey allowing Sauron to gain more power.
 - Travel difficulties.
 - Lack of supplies

You are all mortals and as such will have struggles with the dangerous, rigorous journey

External Issues/Attacks

- The party will be attacked by various being such as Uruk-Hai and Orcs.
Sauron's army has many types of foes, but most of the basic enemies you will encounter are creatures known as Orcs. These fearsome creatures are descended from elves that were corrupted by darkness but they are not very intelligent. There are also Uruk-Hai, or Orc-men, mutants of Orcs created by Sauron. They are far more intelligent and capable than normal orcs and are even more dangerous.

- Attacks from the Nazgul

The Nazgul are Sauron's most powerful servants. Former King's of Men, they were given Rings of Power and corrupted by Sauron. Now, as ringwraith's they do Sauron's bidding. They are extremely dangerous.

- Men joining forces with Sauron

Some men from the East have joined Sauron's army. Should they be treated the same as his other forces? Or should they be shown mercy. Some argue they were just doing what was best for their people.



Orcs in Peter Jackson's adaptation

Parliamentary Procedure

In this committee I expect much of the conversation to occur through notes. For the group to decide on things, I expect them to pass directives to indicate their next action however, resolutions will be unnecessary, As this is not supposed to simulate an actual committee parliamentary procedure does not need to be strictly enforced.

Timeline

Each committee session will represent just over two months. The conference takes place from TA 3018- TA 3019.

The Ring Poem

Three Rings for the Elven-kings under the sky,
Seven for the Dwarf-lords in their halls of stone,
Nine for Mortal Men doomed to die,
One for the Dark Lord on his dark throne
In the Land of Mordor where the Shadows lie.
One Ring to rule them all, One Ring to find them,
One Ring to bring them all and in the darkness bind them
In the Land of Mordor where the Shadows lie."

The words in red are what the inscription on the ring reads when translated to the common tongue



The most helpful sources for this committee are obviously the Lord of the Rings books themselves. But also helpful will be Peter Jackson's film adaptations, and the much shorter Silmarillion. Also, Lord of the Rings wikia is a good place to try and answer any specific questions about characters and lands. http://lotr.wikia.com/wiki/Main_Page

As a side note, do not watch The Hobbit movies for this. They will not help you.

