
Course Title: English 330: Arthurian Literature**Enrollment:** 42 Students

Course Description: This course will examine the development of literature about King Arthur and his knights during the Middle Ages. We will look at texts written in English, French, Latin, and Welsh from the sixth century to present day, including some of the great works by authors such as Marie de France, Chrétien de Troyes, the *Gawain*-poet, Sir Thomas Malory, and Alfred Lord Tennyson. We will read certain texts written in Middle English in the original language, and you will be expected to acquire some fluency in reading Middle English over the course of the semester. Other texts will be in translation.

Learning Outcomes and Course Objectives: At the end of the semester the student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate awareness of the scope and variety of Arthurian works.
2. Understand these works as expressions of individual and human values within their historical and social context.
3. Respond critically to Arthurian literature by analyzing the authors' rhetorical and literary techniques.
4. Apply these methods and techniques to the production of original student writing.
5. Articulate individual, scholarly, critical responses to these works by reviewing relevant scholarship in the area on essays and exams.
6. Develop a thesis or argument by collecting evidence through textual analysis as well as scholarly citation.
7. Recognize the intercultural elements in Arthurian literature throughout its history down to the present.

Grading (1,000 points available)**Grading Scale**

900-1000 points A

800-899 points B

700-799 points C

600-699 points D

599 points and below F

Grading:

Major Grade Categories/Assignments	Percentage of Grade
Consistent Participation in Teamwork Activities and Group Projects; Individual Participation in Daily Assignments	5%
Quizzes (7 total, 5 counted, 40 points each; unannounced)	20%
Group Forum Short Writing Assignments	15%
Essay 1	20%
Research Paper Thesis, Outline, and Annotated Bibliography	10%
Research Paper	30%
Total	100%

Texts:

- *The Romance of Arthur: An Anthology of Medieval Texts in Translation*, Routledge; 3rd edition (7 Dec. 2012), by Norris J. Lacy (Editor), James J. Wilhelm (Editor), ISBN-13: 978-0415782890. (Required)
- *Malory: The Morte Darthur*, Northwestern University Press, 1968, By Sir Thomas Malory (Editor) D. S. Brewer, ISBN 13: 978-0810100312. (Required)
- *Idylls of the King*, Dover Publications; (September 16, 2004), by Alfred Lord Tennyson (Author), W. J. Rolfe (Editor), ISBN-13: 978-0486437958. (Required)\
- *Worlds of Arthur: Facts and Fictions of the Dark Ages* (1st Edition) Oxford University Press (2013), by Guy Halsall ISBN-13: 978-0198700845. (Recommended)

English 330 Course Schedule:

Topic	Dates	Readings and Assignments
Early Arthur: The Latin Chronicles, Welsh Literature, and the Galfridian Tradition	Week 1	Introductions
		Arthur in the Latin Chronicles (Wilhelm); <i>The Worlds of Arthur</i> (Halsall)
		Arthur in the Latin Chronicles cont. (Wilhelm) ESSAY 1 ASSIGNED
	Week 2	Arthur in the Early Welsh Literature (Wilhelm)
		<i>The Mabinogian: Culhwych and Olwen</i> (Wilhelm)
		Geoffrey of Monmouth (Wilhelm and eCampus)
King Arthur: The Romance Tradition and Medieval Quests	Week 3	Selected Lyrics (Wilhelm); Models of Kingship (clip)
		Wace, <i>Roman de Brut</i> (Wilhelm); “Astronomy Translated: Caput Draconis and the Pendragon Star in Geoffrey of Monmouth, Wace, and Laȝamon” (Bryan--eCampus)
		Layamon, <i>Brut</i> (Wilhelm)
	Week 4	Chrétien de Troyes: <i>Lancelot, or the Knight of the Cart</i> (Wilhelm)
		Chrétien de Troyes: <i>Lancelot, or the Knight of the Cart</i> (Wilhelm)
		Chrétien de Troyes: <i>Perceval or the Story of the Grail</i> (Wilhelm and eCampus)
	Week 5	Wolfram von Eschenbach, <i>Parzival</i> (eCampus)
		<i>The Quest for the Holy Grail</i> (Wilhelm)
		Marie de France: <i>Chevrefueil</i> and <i>Lanval</i> (Wilhelm)
	Week 6	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> , Part I (Wilhelm)
		<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> , Part II (Wilhelm)
		<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> , Part III (Wilhelm)
	Week 7	<i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> , Part IV (Wilhelm)
		WRITING WORKSHOP

Malory and his Influences		ROUGH DRAFT AND GROUP PEER REVIEW (Failure to participate in Peer-Review will result in a significant drop in Paper 1's final grade)
	Week 8	“Intro King Arthur's Death: The Middle English Stanzaic Morte Arthur and Alliterative Morte Arthure” (Larry D. Benson--eCampus); The <i>Alliterative Morte Arthure</i> , excerpts (Wilhelm) ESSAY 1 DUE
		The <i>Alliterative Morte Arthure</i> , excerpts (Wilhelm)
		The <i>Stanzaic Morte Arthur</i> , excerpts (Benson--eCampus) ESSAY 2 ASSIGNED
	Week 9	The <i>Stanzaic Morte Arthur</i> , excerpts (Benson--eCampus)
		Sir Thomas Malory: <i>Le Morte Darthur Book I</i> (eCampus); “What is Adaptation?” (Sanders--eCampus)
		Sir Thomas Malory: <i>Le Morte Darthur: Lancelot and Guinevere XVIII-XIX</i> (eCampus); “Guinevere's Politics” (Hodges--eCampus)
	Week 10	Sir Thomas Malory: <i>Le Morte Darthur: Lancelot and Guinevere XVIII-XIX</i> (eCampus)
		Sir Thomas Malory: <i>Le Morte Darthur: Death of Arthur XX-XXI</i> (eCampus); <i>Malory's Anatomy of Chivalry: Mordred</i> (Rovang--eCampus)
	King Arthur, Victorian Medievalism, and Tennyson	
Week 11		Alfred Lord Tennyson: <i>Idylls of the King</i> “The Coming of Arthur” (Dover); “Tennyson's King Arthur” (Machann--eCampus)
		Alfred Lord Tennyson: <i>Idylls of the King</i> “The Holy Grail” (Dover)

		WORKING THESIS, OUTLINE, AND ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY DUE
		Alfred Lord Tennyson: <i>Idylls of the King</i> “Guinevere” (Dover); “Listening to Guinevere” (Ahern--eCampus)
King Arthur in Popular Culture	Week 12	Documentaries, Board Games, Video Games, TV (Merlin, Fate/Zero), Art, Music, and Film. “The Real King Arthur: Why are We So Obsessed with Solving the Mystery?” (Russell--eCampus) “Beginning to Theorize Adaptation” (Hutcheon--eCampus)
		<i>Excalibur</i> (dir. John Boorman) “Film Terms and Topics for Film Analysis and Writing” (Corrigan--eCampus) <i>NY Times</i> “Excalibur Review” (Canby--eCampus)
		<i>King Arthur</i> (Dir. Antoine Fuqua); “Arthur and the Sarmatian Connection” (Littleton and Malcor--eCampus)
	Week 13	<i>King Arthur</i> (Dir. Antoine Fuqua); Find 1-2 movie reviews
		Thanksgiving Holiday
		Thanksgiving Holiday
	Week 14	<i>King Arthur: Legend of the Sword</i> (dir. Guy Ritchie); Find 1-2 movie reviews
		<i>Monty Python and the Holy Grail</i> (dirs. Terry Gilliam and Terry Jones) <i>A Book about the Film Monty Python and the Holy Grail: All the References from African Swallows to Zoot</i> (Larsen—TAMU) Find 1-2 movie reviews
		WRITING WORKSHOP
	Week 15	ROUGH DRAFT AND GROUP PEER REVIEW

		(Failure to participate in Peer-Review will result in a significant drop in Paper 2's final grade)
		FINAL PAPER DUE (NO LATER THAN 5 PM TO LAAH 443)