English 208H
Arthurian Legend

Fall 1987
Section 01
MWF 10:30; Th 308
Instructor: W.U. Ober
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Office Hours: MWF 1:30-2:30 or by appointment.

Course Description

The story of Arthur and his knights of the Round Table will be discussed as it is treated at various times in various works and genres. Such matters will be considered as the character of Arthur, the concept of Camelot, and the Fellowship of the Round Table.

Required Texts


Alfred, Lord Tennyson. Idylls of the King. Signet.

T.H. White. The Once and Future King. Collins.

Recommended Texts

W.K. Thomas. Correct Form in Essay Writing.

Any good college dictionary such as the latest Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary.

Course Requirements

One essay of eight double-spaced typewritten pages (or the equivalent in handwriting), to be assigned. The essay will account for approximately 40% of the final grade. (Other details will be provided later.) You are asked to read carefully the leaflet "Plagiarism: What It Is and How to Avoid It."

One three-hour final examination. The final examination will account for approximately 40% of the final grade. (Other details will be provided later.)
(The remaining 20% of the final grade will be determined by
the instructor on the basis of tests or other factors that
will be discussed later.)

**Assignments**

The selections listed below will be studied in the following
order. Please make an effort to read each selection in its
entirety before we begin to study it.

Three meetings: Introductory lecture; "Arthur in the Latin
Chronicle"; "Arthur in the Early Welsh Tradition"—
Wilhelm and Gross, pp. 5-25.

Two meetings: "The Tale of Culhwc and Clwen"—Wilhelm and
Gross, pp. 27-55.

Two meetings: "Arthur in Geoffrey of Monmouth"—Wilhelm and
Gross, pp. 57-80.

Four meetings: Chrétien’s *Perceval*—Loomis, pp. 3-87.

Four meetings: Gottfried’s *Tristan and Isolde*—Loomis, pp.
88-232.

Four meetings: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*—Wilhelm and
Gross, pp. 157-209.

Three meetings: *Sir Thomas Malory’s Le Morte D’Arthur*—
Wilhelm and Gross, pp. 243-306.

Five meetings: Tennyson’s *Idylls of the King*: "The Coming
of Arthur," "Balin and Balan," "Merlin and Vivien,"
"The Holy Grail," "Pelleas and Ettarre," "The Last
Signet: pp. 13-26; 102-16; 116-38; 171-92; 192-206;
206-24; 224-41; 242-55.

Five meetings: T. H. White, *The Once and Future King*.

Please Note: It may be necessary to omit or shorten one or
two assignments.