ENGL 208H: Arthurian Legend

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Office Hours: By email
Fall 2015
MW 11:00-13:30
UW DWE 3517

Description:

ENGL 208H will introduce students to a wide spectrum of Arthurian material from the earliest sources to late medieval romances. The readings are diverse and cover a range of genres, giving students the opportunity to observe important aspects of medieval culture and ideologies.

Purpose:

This course will investigate the introduction and development of major themes present throughout Arthurian legend and medieval romance, generally. These include medieval concepts of games, questing and boasting, land and landscape, the perils of faërie, and the nature of love, gender, and identity. To this end, the course is intended to deepen students’ understanding of the importance of Arthurian material for medieval British culture generally. Some texts will be available in Middle English and will serve as a general introduction to reading middle English.

Texts:

Sir Launfal, TEAMS online
Sir Orfeo, TEAMS online
Emarer, TEAMS online
Lebaeus Desconus, TEAMS online
Grades:

Participation: 20%
Participation grade will be evaluated on your preparedness or class, having read the weeks assigned readings, and your engagement in class discussion. Missed classes cannot be “made up” with other work. Each missed class without proper documentation will penalize the final participation grade by 2%.

Minor Essay: 20%
Due October 7, 2015. **3-5 pages. MLA format required.** The minor essay is intended to be exploratory. Students will use this paper to dig deeper into any characters, authors, or texts that interest them. The length of this essay requires the student to select a short section of text (a few stanzas, paragraphs, or a single event) for analysis and interpretation. Essay topics will be suggested in lecture, but each student is encouraged to follow their own interests. Please review essay ideas with me by September 28, 2015.

Presentation: 15%
A sign-up sheet for your presentation day will be circulated in the second week of class. Each student will choose a topic and provide a 7-10 (max) minute presentation illuminating relevant, images, themes, historical data, and cultural influences, etc. as related to the object text. Each student is allowed up to 3 slides (max) in a powerpoint or hand-out. The intention for this project is to give the student an avenue to develop, explore and share their ideas and research from the minor essay in preparation for further work toward the major essay. Students are encouraged to choose their topic for their presentation with their major essay in mind. Please hand in your lecture notes after your presentation.

Proposal: 15%
Due November 4, 2015. **2-3 pages. MLA format required.** Outlines the student’s research agenda with a clear and defensible thesis for the major essay. Summarizes the argument, examples, and preliminary conclusions that the major essay will flesh out in greater detail. Include a research bibliography of at least **five** sources.

Major Essay: 30%
Due November 25, 2015 with comments, or December 2, 2015 for grading only. **6-8 pages. MLA format required.** The major essay is the culmination of the semester’s work. It will be well written, well researched, and its argument well defended. Reference to at least **five** scholarly sources (books, journals, essays) is required. This is an opportunity to engage with the community of thinkers who have come before you and begin understanding the interests and directions of those communities.
# Reading Schedule:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings Due</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sept 14, 16</td>
<td>Intro, Latin and Welsh Sources</td>
<td>ROA chapters 1,2,3</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Sept 21, 23</td>
<td>Historical Imaginings</td>
<td>ROA chapters 4,5,6</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Sept 28, 30</td>
<td>Questing for the Grail</td>
<td>ROA chapters 8, 10</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Oct 5, 7</td>
<td>Intro to Courtly Love</td>
<td>ROA chapter 7</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Oct 14</td>
<td>Courtly Love continued, Knight of the Cart</td>
<td>ROA chapter 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Oct 19, 21</td>
<td>Knight of the Cart, Tristan and Isolde</td>
<td>ROA chapter 7, 13</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Oct 26, 28</td>
<td>Tristan and Isolde, Sir Launfal</td>
<td>ROS chapter 13, TEAMS</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Nov 2, 4</td>
<td>Emare, Sir Orfeo</td>
<td>TEAMS</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Nov 9, 11</td>
<td>Sir Orfeo, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</td>
<td>TEAMS, SGGK</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>Nov 16, 18</td>
<td>SGGK</td>
<td>SGGK</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>Nov 23, 25</td>
<td>SGGK</td>
<td>SGGK</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Nov 30, Dec 2</td>
<td>Lebaeus Desconus</td>
<td>TEAMS</td>
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Section 1: Heroes and the Quest: Development of Arthur and importance of the Quest
- Sept 14: Introductions, syllabus, Middle Ages historical overview
- Sept 16: Arthurian Legend: Latin chronicles, Welsh sources, *Culwch and Olwen*
- Sept 21: Geoffrey of Monmouth
- Sept 28: Chrétien de Troyes, *Perceval*
- Sept 30: Chrétien de Troyes, *Perceval*
- Oct 5: *Parzival*

Section 2: Courtly Love
- Oct 7: Chrétien de Troyes, *The Knight of the Cart*; **minor essay due.**
- Oct 12: (Thanksgiving Day)
- Oct 14: Chrétien de Troyes, *The Knight of the Cart*
- Oct 19: Chrétien de Troyes, *The Knight of the Cart*
- Oct 21: Tristan and Isolde
- Oct 26: Tristan and Isolde
- Oct 28: *Sir Launfal*
- Nov 2: *Emaré*

Section 3: Landscape, Faerie and the Perilous Realm
- Nov 4: *Sir Orfeo*; **proposal due.**
- Nov 9: *Sir Orfeo*
- Nov 11: *Sir Orfeo*
Nov 16: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
Nov 18: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
Nov 23: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
Nov 25: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight; final Essay Due (for grading and comments)
Nov 30: Lebaeus Deconus
Dec 2: Lebaeus Deconus; final Essay Due (for grading only)

Late Work:
Assignments handed in late without suitable documentation (doctor’s note, etc.) will be penalized 5% per day, up to one week late, at which point they will not be accepted for grading.

Electronic Device Policy:
Laptops and tablets are suitable for note-taking and useful for research purposes. Out of respect for other people in the class, please silence your phone during lectures, discussions, and group work. Phone use is not permitted in class except for emergencies.

Attendance Policy:
Missed classes cannot be made up and will deduct 2% per class from the student’s participation grade. Only with suitable notification, explanation and documentation for an absence will the grade penalty be suppressed.

Plagiarism:
Please see the following information:

Academic Integrity
In order to maintain a culture of academic integrity, members of the University of Waterloo community are expected to promote honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility. See the UWWaterloo Academic Integrity Webpage (https://uwaterloo.ca/academic-integrity/) and the Arts Academic Integrity Office Webpage (http://arts.uwaterloo.ca/current-undergraduates/academic-responsibility) for more information.

Discipline
A student is expected to know what constitutes academic integrity to avoid committing academic offenses and to take responsibility for his/her actions. A student who is unsure whether an action constitutes an offense, or who needs help in learning how to avoid offenses (e.g., plagiarism, cheating) or about “rules” for group work/collaboration should seek guidance from the course professor, academic advisor, or the undergraduate associate dean. For information on categories of offenses and types of penalties, students should refer to Policy 71, Student Discipline (http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy71.htm). For typical penalties check Guidelines
Grievance
A student who believes that a decision affecting some aspect of his/her university life has been unfair or unreasonable may have grounds for initiating a grievance. Read Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances, Section 4 (https://uwaterloo.ca/secretariat/policies-procedures-guidelines/policy-70). When in doubt please be certain to contact the department’s administrative assistant who will provide further assistance.

Appeals
A decision made or penalty imposed under Policy 70, Student Petitions and Grievances (other than a petition) or Policy 71, Student Discipline may be appealed if there is a ground. A student who believes he/she has a ground for an appeal should refer to Policy 72, Student Appeals (http://www.adm.uwaterloo.ca/infosec/Policies/policy72.htm).

Note for Students with Disabilities
The Office for Persons with Disabilities (OPD), located in Needles Hall, Room 1132, collaborates with all academic departments to arrange appropriate accommodations for students with disabilities without compromising the academic integrity of the curriculum. If you require academic accommodations to lessen the impact of your disability, please register with the OPD at the beginning of each academic term.