ENGLISH 208H

-- Arthurian Legend --

Winter 1994
Section 01
10:30MWF; ML 117
Office Hours: 11:30-12:30 MW or by appt.

Instructor: W.U. Ober
Office: HH 253A
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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:

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

Recommended Texts:

W.K. Thomas. Correct Form in Essay Writing.
Any good college dictionary.

Course Requirements:

One essay of eight double-spaced typewritten pages, to be assigned. The essay will account for 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 one-hour midterm examination. The midterm will account for 16% of the final grade.

One three-hour final examination. The final examination will account for 44% of the final grade and will be written during the final examination period. (Other details will be provided later.)
Assignments and Meetings:

(Dates are approximate and subject to change. It may be necessary to shorten one or two assignments. Please make an effort to read each selection in its entirety before we begin to study it. I urge you to begin immediately to read White and Bradley. Together they represent about 1500 pages!)

Two meetings: Introduction to the course (Jan. 5-7)

Three meetings: "Arthur in the Latin Chronicles"—Wilhelm and Gross, pp. 5-11, with supplementary information on the supposed historical Arthur (Jan. 10-14)


Two meetings: "The Tale of Culhwch and Olwen"—Wilhelm and Gross, pp. 27-55 (Jan 21-24)

Three meetings: "Arthur in Geoffrey of Monmouth"—Wilhelm and Gross, pp. 57-86 (Jan 26-31)

Four meetings: Chrétien's Perceval—Loomis, pp. 3-87, with supplementary information on the Holy Grail (Feb 2-9)

One meeting: MIDTERM EXAMINATION (Feb 11)

Three meetings: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight—Loomis, pp. 324-89 (Feb 14-18)

Four meetings: Sir Thomas Malory's Le Morte D'Arthur—Wilhelm and Gross, pp. 243-306, with supplementary background information on Malory and his book (Feb 28-March 7)

Five meetings: T.H. White, The Once and Future King (March 9-18)

Four meetings: Marion Zimmer Bradley, The Mists of Avalon (March 21-28)

Two meetings: Review (March 30-April 4)