

## **ENGL5270: Arthurian Legend**

Fall 2014, Tuesdays 17:00-19:45

Professor Andrew J. Power

Office: 317 San Ignacio Hall

Office Hours: Mondays 18:00-18:30; Tuesday 16:15-16:45; Wednesday 14:15-15:15

Email: [poweraj@slu.edu](mailto:poweraj@slu.edu)

Phone: TBC

### **Outline:**

The legends of King Arthur, Merlin, and the mythical Round Table originate in Celtic tradition and in early chronicle history. These stories, which detail the adventures of a sixth-century warrior king, fascinated later writers as many historical and literary accounts show. First, we will explore the historical traces of the Arthur figure, reading about the wars between the Anglo-Saxons and the Welsh that produced the stories of a charismatic warrior king. From this beginning, we will read texts by writers who draw upon the Welsh tradition, expanding, modifying, and altering these early accounts. By the twelfth century, the textual emphasis shifts from recording history to producing Arthurian romance, so our discussions will focus on chivalry, romantic love, infidelity, and various types of quests. In later centuries (16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>) the focus of these tales changed as the corpus of Arthuriana grew.

### **Goals/Objectives of the Course and Student Learning Objectives:**

Students who take this course will

- develop a strong understanding of the medieval treatment of Arthur
- understand the complex relationship between historical sources for King Arthurian and the mythic figure of literature
- realize that while there are transcendental elements to the legends there are also period specific resonances to particular versions of the tales
- develop critical assessments of Arthurian texts and the themes raised in them
- be able to put forward strong, carefully articulated written and verbal analyses of Arthurian texts

### **Required Texts:**

Norris J. Lacy & James J. Wilhelm, eds. *The Romance of Arthur: An Anthology of Medieval Texts in Translation*, London & NY: Routledge, 1983, [third edition] 2013.  
Alfred Lord Tennyson, *The Idylls of the King*.

### **Requirements / Grading:**

- Regular attendance and participation 10%
- Two essays: 5-7 pages and 8-10 pages. A Textual Analysis paper (a shorter analysis paper will expect you to demonstrate your ability to read, pose a thesis, analyze, and synthesize using primary documents from the course. This is not a research paper, which means no secondary materials need be used. (Instead, I am eager to see how well you can analyze an Arthurian text without supplementary scholarship.) The second essay will be a full research paper in which you will draw on historical and critical/theoretical materials. 75% (35+40? / 30+45?)
- Research presentation (on the topic of your final research paper? When?) 15%

## Online Resources

Arthur Complete (including *Arthuriana—The Journal of Arthurian Studies*)

<http://smu.edu/arthuriana>

Arthurian Resources

<http://www.arthuriana.co.uk>

Arthurian Sites in England

[http://www.uidaho.edu/student\\_orgs/arthurian\\_legend/england/sites/](http://www.uidaho.edu/student_orgs/arthurian_legend/england/sites/)

Arthurian Studies (general and specific--scroll down for both sections)

<http://data.georgetown.edu/labyrinth/display.cfm>

Arthurnet (the listserv devoted to Arthuriana)

<http://www.smu.edu/arthuriana/arthurnet.htm>

Camelot Project

<http://www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/cphome.stm>

King Arthur on Britannia

<http://www.britannia.com/history/h12.html>

-*Middle English Dictionary*: <http://quod.lib.umich.edu/m/med/>

-*Oxford English Dictionary Online* (historical dictionary available via library databases—use this to look up sixteenth and seventeenth-century meanings of words)

-Luminarium: [www.luminarium.org](http://www.luminarium.org) (independent scholarly website; includes texts and scholarly essays as well as links to other online resources)

-Project Muse (library database for humanities and social sciences)

-MLA International Bibliography (library database for modern languages and literature) -JSTOR (library database for humanities, arts, sciences, and social sciences)

-The Early Modern Drama Database

<http://homepage.mac.com/tomdalekeever/earlymodern.html>

-Voice of the Shuttle (guide to online humanities research)

<http://vos.ucsb.edu/>

**Schedule of Readings (TBC)**

Tuesday 17:00-19:45

Week 1, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sept: Introductions

Week 2, 9<sup>th</sup> Sept: Historical Arthur 1 – Chapter 1, ‘Arthur in the Latin Chronicles, 547-1125  
& Chapter 4, Geoffrey of Monmouth, *Historia Regum  
Brittannie / History of the Kings of Britain*, <1138

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup> Sept Last Day to Drop a Class Without a Grade of W and/or Add a Class**

Week 3, 16<sup>th</sup> Sept: Historical Arthur 2 – Chapter 5, Wace, *Roman de Brut*, 1155  
& Chapter 6, Layamon, *Brut*, c.1189-1204

Week 4, 23<sup>rd</sup> Sept: Celtic Arthur - Chapter 2, ‘Early Welsh Tradition’  
& Chapter 3, *Culhwch and Olwen*, late C11th-C14th

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> Sept Last Day to Choose Audit (AU) or Pass/No Pass (P/NP) Options**

Week 5, 30<sup>th</sup> Sept: Tristan - Chapter 13, Bérroul, *The Romance of Tristan*, c1170-1200  
& Chapter 16, *Cantare on the Death of Tristan*, c1250-1500?

Week 6, 7<sup>th</sup> Oct: Lancelot - Chapter 7, Chrétien de Troyes *The Knight of the Cart* c1150-1190

**\*Friday 10<sup>th</sup> October First paper (Textual Analysis) due**

Week 7, 14<sup>th</sup> Oct: Percival: Chapter 8, Chrétien, *Perceval*, c.1150-1190  
& Chapter 9, Wolfram von Eschenbach, *Parzival*, c1210

**\*Monday 20<sup>th</sup> Oct – Professors’ Deadline for Submission of Midterm Grades**

Week 8, 21<sup>st</sup> Oct: Merlin – Chapter 17, The Prose Merlin and the *Suite du Merlin*, C13

Week 9, 28<sup>th</sup> Oct: Gawain – Chapter 19, *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, C14th

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> October Last Day to Drop a Class and Receive a Grade of W**

Week 10, 4<sup>th</sup> Nov: Malory, *Le Morte D’Arthur* 1468-1470 (Chapter 22 & \*handout\*)

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> November Registration for Spring Semester Begins**

Week 11, 11<sup>th</sup> Nov: Malory, *Le Morte D’Arthur* 1468-1470 (Chapter 22 & \*handout\*)

Week 12, 18<sup>th</sup> Nov: Elizabethan Arthur: *The Misfortunes of Arthur & The Faerie Queene*  
(\*handout\*)

Week 13, 25<sup>th</sup> Nov: Tennyson, *Idylls of the King* – including ‘Gareth and Lynette’ & ‘Geraint  
and Enid’

Week 14, 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec: Tennyson, *Idylls of the King* – including ‘Balin and Balan’ & ‘Lancelot  
and Elaine’

Week 15, 9<sup>th</sup> Dec: *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade &/ The Fisher King*

\*Final paper due

**\*\*\*!!!Exam Class – Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> Dec 15:30-18:30!!!\*\*\***

**Academic Honesty and Plagiarism:**

You are expected to maintain the standards of academic integrity required by Saint Louis University. To quote from the University's policy: *Although not all forms of academic dishonesty can be listed here, it can be said in general that soliciting, receiving, or providing any unauthorized assistance in the completion of any work submitted toward academic credit is dishonest. It not only violates the mutual trust necessary between faculty and students but also undermines the validity of the University's evaluation of students and takes unfair advantage of fellow students. Further, it is the responsibility of any student who observes such dishonest conduct to call it to the attention of a faculty member or administrator...Possible sanctions for a violation of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, disciplinary probation, suspension, and dismissal from the University.*

Examples of plagiarism include: turning in someone else's work (published or unpublished) as your own; presenting ideas that are not your own, or that are not common knowledge, either directly (verbatim) or paraphrased without proper citation; willful misrepresentation of sources (citing a source that isn't the source from which you obtained your information).

Policy: If you turn in work that violates these policies and if this is your first offense, you will receive an "F" on the assignment. If you violate the policy for a second time, you will receive an "F" as a final grade for the class.

**Accommodation Statement:**

In recognition that people learn in a variety of ways and that learning is influenced by multiple factors (e.g., prior experience, study skills, learning disability), resources to support student success are available on campus. Students who think they might benefit from these resources can find out more about:

Course-level support (e.g., faculty member, departmental resources, etc.) by asking your course instructor.

University-level support (e.g., tutoring/writing services, Disability Services) by visiting the Academic Dean's Office (San Ignacio Hall) or by going to [http://spain.slu.edu/academics/learning\\_resources.html](http://spain.slu.edu/academics/learning_resources.html).

Students who believe that, due to a disability, they could benefit from academic accommodations are encouraged to contact Disability Services at +34 915 54 58 58, ext. 204, send an e-mail to [counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu](mailto:counselingcenter-madrid@slu.edu), or to visit the Counseling Office (San Ignacio Hall). Confidentiality will be observed in all inquiries. Course instructors support student accommodation requests when an approved letter from Disability Services has been received and when students discuss these accommodations with the instructor after receipt of the approved letter.

**Assessment and Submission of Work:**

Saint Louis University - Madrid Campus is committed to excellent and innovative educational practices. In order to maintain quality academic offerings and to conform to relevant accreditation requirements, we regularly assess our teaching, services, and programs for evidence of student learning outcomes achievement. For this purpose we keep on file anonymized representative examples of student work from all courses and programs such as: assignments, papers, exams, portfolios, and results from student surveys, focus groups, and reflective exercises. *Thus, copies of your work for this course, including oral presentations, assignments, and submitted papers may*

*be kept on file for institutional research, assessment and accreditation purposes.* If you prefer that Saint Louis University-Madrid Campus does not keep your work on file, you will need to communicate your decision in writing to your professor.

## **STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **Late Assignments**

If a problem should prevent you from submitting your work on time, you must speak with me before the due date to discuss a possible extension. If the extension is not pre-approved, late assignments will be docked 1/3 of a letter grade for each day after the due date.

### **Attendance**

Plan to attend all scheduled meetings. I understand that some absences may be unavoidable, but please be wise in your judgement and expect the unforeseen, such as illness, appointments, car trouble. Given that life often interferes with our best-laid plans, know that an absence or two will not affect your class performance too adversely, but at the fourth unexcused absence, your final grade is lowered one-third (A- becomes a B+; B+ becomes a B). Likewise, a fifth absence drops your grade another third. Missing six classes is grounds for a grade of F in the course. If a major crisis occurs that will cause you to miss a number of classes, please contact me about the situation so that we can devise a strategy for completing the class successfully. Please note that I especially appreciate students who provide advance notice regarding anticipated absences, and excused absences require documentation. Students who miss class are obligated to make up the work on their own time.

### **Courtesy**

Please support the class by being prompt and prepared. If you are late or unprepared, you will not be able to participate knowledgeably, which will affect not only your own progress, but also your peers' thinking and growth and our group dynamic. Also, routinely arriving late to class, leaving early, or using the facilities during class time will negatively affect your performance grade since you will be detracting from our collective work.