ENGL 330.200
Spring 2013
MWF 11:30-12:20
Harrington Center
2XX

ENGL 330 Course Catalogue: Arthurian Literature. (3-0). Legend of King Arthur in English and American literature from its Medieval origins to the present.

Course Description

This course centers on the development of the Arthur story in poetry, fiction, and drama, from its inception in early medieval Britain through the twentieth and twenty-first century. Reading these texts in relation to specific historical, political, and cultural contexts, we will be discussing such topics as: Arthur as a model for rulers, the role of Arthurian narrative in shaping the ideals of "chivalry," international human rights law, and professional rule of conduct in the modern world.

Learning Outcomes

1. Identify major works of Arthurian literature.

2. Explain the relationship between individual works and broader historical and social contexts.

3. Identify and explain the rhetorical devices and literary techniques authors use in specific texts of Arthurian literature.

4. Articulate individual, scholarly, critical responses to works by reviewing relevant scholarship in the area.

5. Develop a thesis and support argument with textual evidence.

6. Integrate scholarly citation in formal essay writing.

7. Identify major works of Arthurian literature.

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Textbook and/or Resource Material


2) Sir Thomas Malory, *Works* (paperback)

3) Alfred, Lord Tennyson, *Idylls of the King* (paperback)

4) A more recent Arthurian work of your choice (recommendations will be discussed in class.)

Core Curriculum Objectives

*Critical Thinking Skills (CTS):* The course will enhance critical thinking skills through consistent reading and class discussion of Arthurian literature.

*Communication Skills (CS):* The course enhances communication skills through small and large group discussion, writing and visual texts of ideas, issues, questions, and themes central to course reading.

*Personal Responsibility (PR):* The course will enhance personal responsibility through engagement with moral and thorny ethical issues that arise in course readings.

*Social Responsibility (SR):* The course enhances social responsibility by providing students with a cross cultural understanding of how history, region, and broader social forces have shaped the distinctive literary traditions of Arthurian literature.

Evaluation of Core Objectives

CTS: The evaluation of critical thinking skills will be based on exams and class participation and may include written work. Exams will be designed to allow students to demonstrate their ability to evaluate and synthesize key ideas from the assigned reading. Class room discussion will focus on helping students better understand the nuances and complexities of Arthurian literature

CS: The course will help students learn how to develop a greater understanding of Arthurian literature that may involve guided writing assignments in which they will receive feedback, exams in which students will be expected to effectively convey key ideas from the course succinctly and clearly, and class room discussion in which students will learn how to express questions and thoughts about the subtleties of each text under examination. Material from this course will include written texts and such visual representations as photographs, illustrations, films, or theatrical performances.
PR: The course material throughout the semester will offer students an opportunity to reflect upon personal responsibility through such topics as the chivalric roots of international human rights law, professional code of conduct for the military, just war theory, rape as a war crime, treatment of prisoners and civilians, personal loyalty and political allegiance, and relationships between men and women.

SR: The evaluation of social responsibility will be based upon an end-of-the-semester short writing assignment in which students will be asked to reflect upon how their knowledge of literatures from previous historical periods and cultures outside of their own has changed in light of the new information that they now possess. Students will be expected to demonstrate how key insights from the course have helped broaden their understanding of how history, culture, and philosophical outlooks have shaped the literary traditions of Arthurian literature.

Assignments and Exams

One midterm exam (30%). The midterm will be made up of short and long questions.

Final (30%). The comprehensive final will include short and long essay questions. On the final essay exam students will be given a writing assignment in which they will be asked to reflect upon how their knowledge of literatures from previous historical periods and cultures outside of their own has changed in light of the new information that they now possess. They will be expected to demonstrate how key insights from the course have helped broaden their understanding of how history, culture, and philosophical outlooks have shaped Arthurian literature.

Term paper (35%). The 10 page term paper will be graded on coherence, grammar, insight, and proper use of scholarly sources.

Participation (5%). Your participation grade will be awarded on the basis of regular attendance, class participation, minor in-class writing assignments, and weekly honors group meetings.

Grading Scale: A=90-100, B=80-89, C=70-79, D=60-69, and F=50-59

Attendance Policy

The University views class attendance as the responsibility of an individual student. Attendance is essential to complete the course successfully. University rules related to excused and unexcused absences are located online at http://student-rules.tamu.edu/rule07. As required by Texas state law, major religious holidays are also excused absences.

Course Topics, Calendar of Activities, Major Assignment Dates

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<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Required Reading</th>
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Comprehensive final exam. On the final essay exam students will be given a writing assignment in which they will be asked to reflect upon how their knowledge of literatures from previous historical periods and cultures outside of their own has changed in light of the new information that they now possess. They will be expected to demonstrate how key insights from the course have helped broaden their understanding of how history, culture, and philosophical outlooks have shaped Arthurian literature.

Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities.
If you believe you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact Disability Services, in Cain Hall, Room B118, or call 845-1637. For additional information visit http://disability.tamu.edu

**Academic Integrity**

*For additional information please visit: http://www.tamu.edu/aggiehonor*

"An Aggie does not lie, cheat, or steal, or tolerate those who do."