

SU 2022

AP/EN 4504 6.0A (SU)	Arthurian Literature
Course Director:	Natalia Khomenko Email: khomenko@yorku.ca
Time:	N/A
Delivery Format:	ONLINE – (asynchronous delivery) – There is no set course meeting time. Students may engage with course content/materials 24/7.
Description:	<p>The stories of King Arthur and his knights have captivated the popular imagination for centuries and stimulated the efforts of many writers and, lately, filmmakers. These stories might have loosely stemmed from historical events: early historiographical materials depicted Arthur as a warrior who fought on the side of the Celtic-speaking Britons after the weakening of the Roman Empire. However, in medieval literature Arthur gradually became a symbol of Britain's greatness as a king who had supposedly conquered half of the world and even sacked Rome.</p> <p>This course will begin with proto-Arthurian figures in early medieval Latin chronicles (Gildas, Bede, pseudo-Nennius), and early Welsh sources. We will explore the creation of Arthuriana as a genre from the twelfth to the fifteenth century (including Geoffrey of Monmouth, Chrétien de Troyes, Marie de France, and a range of late Middle English chivalric romances). Later, we will examine parts of Thomas Malory's <i>Le Morte Darthur</i>, recognized as a pinnacle of Middle English Arthuriana, and trace the adaptation and reception of Arthurian texts and characters from the sixteenth into the twenty-first century (including Ben Jonson, Alfred Tennyson, Monty Python, and Kazuo Ishiguro). Where possible, this course will bring in a range of media, from manuscript facsimiles to graphic novels and film. Throughout the course, we will consider how Arthurian stories draw on history (or what their authors believe to be history) and fiction in order to offer social, political, and religious lessons to their readers. Primary materials will be supplemented with secondary readings throughout. Most of the materials will be read in translation from Latin, Old French, Middle Welsh, and Middle English, but we will also be reading some romances in their original Middle English.</p>
Category:	C
Historical Requirement:	Time Period 1 (pre-1700)
Requirements:	Short essay proposal: 5% Short essay: 20% Research essay proposal and annotated bibliography: 10%

	<p>Research essay: 25%</p> <p>Short response papers: 20%</p> <p>Participation: 20%</p>
Reading List:	<p>This course will occasionally rely on Arthurian materials published online.</p> <p><u>The following texts are required for the class and are NOT open-access or available through York:</u></p> <p>1) <i>The Romance of Arthur: An Anthology of Medieval Texts in Translation</i>, 3rd ed., edited by Norris J. Lacy and James J. Wilhelm. Routledge, 2013.</p> <p>2) Sir Thomas Malory's <i>Le Morte Darthur</i> (Winchester Manuscript, edited by Helen Cooper, Oxford Paperbacks Publication, 2008). There are numerous editions of Malory: please be sure to get this one. I strongly recommend that you get a hard copy, as it uses both footnotes and endnotes and might be more difficult to follow as an e-book.</p> <p>3) Kazuo Ishiguro's <i>The Buried Giant</i> (2015). Any edition is acceptable.</p> <p><u>These textbooks will be ordered by York's bookstore.</u></p> <p>We will also be using a range of readings available through York University Library subscriptions or through open-access databases.</p>
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