

**INTRODUCTION TO POETRY:
ARTHUR THE BRITON, BRETON, & BRITISH KING**
Summer II 2018
ENGL 2305-212, Rm. 305 (MTWRF, 10-11:50 a.m.)

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Office Hours: Tuesdays, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m.; Wednesdays, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.; Thursdays, 9:00 – 10:00 a.m. (and by appointment)

Course Description:

While popular interest in poetry has declined in the last hundred years, King Arthur continues to be a mainstay in our culture. What is it about King Arthur (and his knights!) that fascinates us? Why is he the most enduring and memorable character from the medieval period? What role did he play in the development of poetic form and the clash of cultures in medieval Europe?

We will explore possible answers to all of these questions as we chart Arthur's rise from Welsh bardic poetry to T. S. Eliot's devastating poem "The Waste Land." This vast chronological landscape will give us room to consider the changing cultural expectations of entertainment in its poetic form. In order to conceptualize medieval engagement with poetry as "entertainment," we will engage in a multi-modal approach to our study by looking at manuscript images, listening to recordings of performances, and even performing poetry in class.

This course satisfies the Texas Tech University core curriculum requirement in humanities, contributing to the Competency Statement for the Humanities: "Students graduating from Texas Tech University should be able to think critically and demonstrate an understanding of the possibility of multiple interpretations, cultural contexts, and values."

Required Texts:

Wilhelm, James J., ed. & trans. *The Romance of Arthur: An Anthology of Medieval Texts in Translation*. Routledge, 2013.

Chretien de Troyes. *Perceval, or The Story of the Grail*. Ruth Cline, trans. University of Georgia Press, 1985.

Tennyson, Alfred Lord. *Idylls of the King*. Penguin Classics, 1989.

Eliot, T. S. *The Waste Land and Other Poems*. Penguin Classics, 2003.

Additional Supplemental Readings will be supplied by the instructor.

Learning Objectives:

The University Catalog states that “the objective of the humanities in a core curriculum is to expand the student’s knowledge of the human condition and human cultures, especially in relation to behaviors, ideas, and values expressed in works of the human imagination and thought. Through study in disciplines such as literature and philosophy, students will engage in critical analysis and develop an appreciation of the humanities as fundamental to the health and survival of any society.” By the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Articulate and evaluate the historical contexts that shaped the development of Arthurian poetry.
2. Differentiate the poetic forms that contribute to region-specific Arthurian poetry and describe them.
3. Interpret and analyze Arthurian poetry from different regions and periods.
4. Develop an appreciation of the entertainment value of Arthurian poetry in its medieval contexts and think creatively about aesthetics of this tradition.
5. Assess the changing Arthurian tradition in the twentieth century.

Learning Assessments:

The objectives listed above will be assessed in the following ways:

1. In-class writing assignments, group-work, short essay.
2. Group-work, reading quizzes, homework assignments.
3. In-class writing assignments, class discussion
4. Class discussion, creative group project.
5. Class discussion, in-class writing assignments, group-work.

Assignments:**Grade Distribution:**

Participation: 10%

Blackboard Writing Assignments: 10%

Reading Quizzes: 10%

Short Essay: 20%

Mock Trial: 25%

Group Project: 25%

Participation: 10%

You will be evaluated on your participation throughout the semester based on work in the following activities:

- Small group discussion
- Full group discussion
- Individual in-class writing
- Bringing required materials (including assigned text, reading log, and notebook/pen for taking notes)

Participation in class discussion means: listening attentively, contributing ideas, asking questions, taking notes, etc. There are many ways to participate, but if you sit in the back of the classroom with headphones, then you are clearly not participating.

If you are not in class, you cannot participate, and your grade will reflect not only your absences but also your reduced participation.

Each class, there are two possible Participation points to be earned:

1. Attendance and preparedness for class
2. Participation in class activities and discussion

Blackboard Writing Assignments: 10%

Four times in the semester you will be asked to write a short essay (3-4 paragraphs) on Blackboard. A prompt will be provided and your work will be assessed based on your attention to the prompt and text as well as the clarity of the points you make. You will have 48 hours to respond to the prompt.

Reading Quizzes: 10%

Each day of class there will be a short reading quiz covering basics of the material read for class. At the end of the semester, the worst two quiz grades will be dropped.

Short Essay: 20%

Due 7/30. There will be one short essay (4 pages) assigned during the semester. A basic prompt will be provided, but you must design your own argument based on the parameters provided.

This short essay must be a thesis-driven, formal piece of writing that analyzes and compares two poems. You can also look at the historical context of a poem and write about the influences you see. You must include a works cited. No outside sources will be permitted. All essays must cover texts read for THIS COURSE. Essays should be in Times New Roman, 12-point font, and double-spaced.

Mock Trial: 25%

In lieu of a final paper or exam, you will conduct a mock trial based on the prompt provided. This mock trial will take place on our final exam day (**Friday, August 10, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.**). The class will be divided into three groups: Prosecution, Defense, and Jury/Judge. Groups will be assigned on **July 26**. Prosecution and Defense will submit on the final day (**August 8**) of class their Complaint (or Counter-Complaint), Brief, and List of Witnesses. The Jury/Judge group will submit a summative document of all relevant passages in the texts read for

the course in order to refamiliarize everyone with possible scenarios and characters to reference in trial. By **7:00 p.m.** on the day of the trial (**Friday, August 10**), the Jury/Judge will submit via e-mail their Decision and Sentencing of the Defendant. The details and rubric for this assignment will be submitted by the end of the first week of class.

Group Project: 25%

The final group project can take a variety of forms, but it must demonstrate your group's critical engagement with one poem read for class this semester. This is a creative project, so you can create: a video dramatically reenacting one of the poems, a website edition of the poem (including character pages, introductions to important scenes, pages for important poetic forms, pages for the historical context, etc.), a Twitter or Facebook rendering of the characters' exchanges in the poem, a dramatic rewrite of a poem, a story written to explain one of the triads, a video reenactment of an important historical event relating to a poem, a video depicting a modern version of the events in a poem, a puppet show reenacting a scene from a narrative poem, set the poem to music, create a rap out of the poem, etc. How you wish to tackle this project is up to you, but you will need to demonstrate in a **Project Prospectus (due 7/25)**: what poem you are working with, how you are going to visualize or present it for the class, and how it will help you learn something about your chosen poem. Final presentations should be 15-20 minutes. **A more detailed rubric will be provided on July 16 with sign-ups for groups.** Presentations of your projects will be on the last day of class (**August 8**).

Grading Breakdown:

90 – 100 = A

Strong, distinguished work. Student writing is prepared and organized. Student shows clear understanding of the literature and writing technique. Writing is sophisticated and coherent.

80 – 89 = B

Above average, high quality work. Student writing is prepared and organized. Student understands a majority of the literature and writing technique. Writing quality is elementary, but clear. Student is coherent, but could be more sophisticated in his/her argument or writing quality.

70 – 79 = C

Average, passing work. Student meets bare minimum requirements for assignment. Assignment is complete but does not offer much introspection or deep-understanding of the literature. Argument and writing quality are elementary. Writing and organizational errors. Inconsistencies present.

60 – 69 = D

Below average work. Student does not meet the minimum requirements for assignment. Assignment is incomplete and unprepared. Basic understanding of text, but no argument – or vice versa.

0 – 59 = F

Fail. Student shows a very limited understanding of the literature or assignment.

Classroom Decorum & Course Policies:

Submission of Work:

Unless granted special permission, students must type and print all assignments. The ONLY exception is the Final Portfolio, which will be due electronically. Assignments are due on the deadline at the beginning of class. I will not accept submitted materials in any other manner (i.e. via e-mail, under my door, in my box, etc.)

All submitted work MUST follow the standard MLA guidelines. This means: typed, double-spaced pages, 1-inch margins, Times New Roman 12-point font (in black ink), page numbers, and a works cited.

In order to pass this class, you MUST submit all required assignments.

Late Work:

Late work will only be accepted in extreme emergency situations. In emergency situations, students may e-mail me about submitting an assignment late, but must make specific arrangements for that submission; however, for each calendar day that the paper is late, the final grade for the work will decrease by one letter. Timeliness and personal responsibility is critical to succeeding in college-level coursework.

Absences:

You are allowed THREE unexcused absences. Any subsequent unexcused absences after three will result in one whole grade deduction PER ABSENCE. Only in extreme circumstances will an absence be excused (court-mandated appearance, mandatory sports or TTU-related function, or extended illness). With documentation, your absence may be excused and will not count against your three “free” absences. Please note that a hangover, headache, or a cold does not qualify as an “extended illness.” After TWO doctor’s notes, you will have used up your excused absences. You cannot succeed in this class if you are absent. After six unexcused absences, you automatically fail this class.

Unless you have made previous arrangements with me, your assignments are due on their scheduled dates regardless of your absences.

If you are in-class, but not present (i.e., on your phone, sleeping, passing notes, messaging on your laptop, listening to music, etc.), you will be considered absent. Physically being in-class does not warrant participation or attendance.

Two tardies (10 or more minutes late for class) will constitute one unexcused absence. If you are running from a class somewhere else on campus and anticipate being a few minutes late, you must notify me prior to class with evidence of the need to arrive late.

Technology Use in the Classroom:

Students must obtain permission from me **PRIOR** to class before using laptops. Texting during class is strictly prohibited. If you are caught texting, I will give you a verbal warning. Any subsequent time you are caught texting, I will simply mark you absent. Headphones and earbuds

are strictly prohibited. If you are expecting a call you that must take due to an emergency, please notify me before class and take the phone call outside.

Student Conduct:

The readings we will encounter in this class may be socially, morally, or emotionally challenging for some. You do not have to agree with, or even like, all the texts, but you do have to be able to read and discuss them critically and sympathetically. Please be respectful of other students and your instructor. This classroom will be a safe place for all of us, regardless of our race, ethnicity, age, religion, social class, gender identity, or sexual preference. Please bring any breach of this standard to my attention immediately. Use common sense and be empathetic of others. If you engage in any distracting or delinquent behavior during class, you will be asked to leave and will be counted absent. If such behavior continues, you will be dropped from the course.

Scholastic Dishonesty:

“Scholastic dishonesty’ includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two courses without the prior permission of the instructor) or the attempt to commit such an act.” It will not be tolerated and may result in the failure of the assignment, at the least, and possible course failure. Additionally, offending students may be referred to Student Judicial Programs. Bottom line: Plagiarism is easy to spot. Don’t do it.

Examples of plagiarism include (but are not limited to):

Outright plagiarism: using someone else’s entire paper as your own;

Ghostwriting: having someone else write your paper for you;

Cut and paste: taking sections from another paper and/or website and including it in your own work; and

Insufficient Citation: failing to cite information obtained from other sources and/or your research.

[When you see this note, e-mail the instructor with a photo of a dog for extra credit points. Offer is good until the first day of class (7/10).]

Writing Assistance:

Students looking for extra assistance during this course should contact the Writing Center, located in Eng/Phil 175. Students can meet with writing tutors to discuss ideas and arguments in texts; the center is not a “fix-it” shop set up to correct errors in grammar and mechanics, although they will assist you with questions regarding any issues. You will need to make an appointment in person, online (<http://uwc.ttu.edu>) or by phone (806-742-2476) and with plenty of time before your due date. Appointments fill up fast, so think ahead!

Americans with Disabilities Act:

“Any student who, because of a disability, may require special arrangements in order to meet the course requirements should contact the instructor as soon as possible to make any necessary arrangements. Students should present appropriate verification from Student Disability Services during the instructor’s office hours. Please note instructors are not allowed to provide classroom

accommodations to a student until appropriate verification from Student Disability Services has been provided. [...] Contact Student Disability Services in 335 West Hall or (806) 742-2405.”

TTU Resources for Discrimination, Harassment, and Sexual Violence:

Texas Tech University is committed to providing and strengthening an educational, working, and living environment where students, faculty, staff, and visitors are free from gender and/or sex discrimination of any kind. Sexual assault, discrimination, harassment, and other Title IX violations are not tolerated by the University. Report any incidents to the Office for Student Rights & Resolution, (806)-742-SAFE (7233) or file a report online at titleix.ttu.edu/students. Faculty and staff members at TTU are committed to connecting you to resources on campus. Some of these available resources are: TTU Student Counseling Center, 806-742-3674, <https://www.depts.ttu.edu/scc/> (Provides confidential support on campus.) TTU Student Counseling Center 24-hour Helpline, 806-742-5555, (Assists students who are experiencing a mental health or interpersonal violence crisis. If you call the helpline, you will speak with a mental health counselor.) Voice of Hope Lubbock Rape Crisis Center, 806-763-7273, voiceofhopelubbock.org (24-hour hotline that provides support for survivors of sexual violence.) The Risk, Intervention, Safety and Education (RISE) Office, 806-742-2110, rise.ttu.edu (Provides a range of resources and support options focused on prevention education and student wellness.) Texas Tech Police Department, 806-742-3931, <http://www.depts.ttu.edu/ttpd/> (To report criminal activity that occurs on or near Texas Tech campus.)

Tentative Class Schedule:

DATE	READINGS/ASSIGNMENTS	Unit
7/10 T	Syllabus & Introduction to the Class Unit Introduction; RoA, Ch. 2 “Arthur in the Early Welsh Tradition”	Briton Arthur
7/11 W	The Dream of Rhonabwy (provided by instructor); Triads (provided by instructor); RoA, Ch. 3 “Culhwch and Olwen” Short Essay Prompt/Rubric Distribution Reading Quiz	Briton Arthur
7/12 R	[NO CLASS] Taliesin, “The Battle of the Trees” (provided by instructor) “The Prophecy of Prydein the Great” (provided by instructor) “The Death Song of Uther Pendragon” (provided by instructor) Blackboard Writing Assignment	Briton Arthur
7/13 F	[NO CLASS] Unit Introduction; RoA, Ch. 4 “Arthur in Geoffrey of Monmouth” – Intro (pp. 58-60); RoA, Ch. 5 “Wace, <i>Roman de Brut</i> : Merlin Episodes and “The Birth and Rise of Arthur”” – Intro (pp. 88-89); RoA, Ch. 6 “Layamon, <i>Brut</i> : “The Death of Arthur”” Blackboard Writing Assignment	Verse & Prose Chronicles
7/16 M	Geoffrey of Monmouth’s <i>Vita Merlini</i> – pt 1 (provided by instructor) Group Project Sign-ups + Rubric Distribution	Verse & Prose Chronicles

	Reading Quiz	
7/17 T	Geoffrey of Monmouth's <i>Vita Merlini</i> – pt 2 (provided by instructor) Reading Quiz	Verse & Prose Chronicles
7/18 W	Unit Introduction; RoA, Ch. 15 “Marie de France, <i>Chevrefueil</i> (“The Honeysuckle”) and <i>Lanval</i> ”; RoA, Ch. 7 “Chretien de Troyes, <i>Lancelot</i> or <i>The Knight of the Cart</i> ” – Introduction, pp. 112-113; Chretien de Troyes, <i>Perceval</i> – Introduction & Prologue Reading Quiz	Breton & French Arthur
7/19 R	Chretien de Troyes, <i>Perceval</i> – “The Meeting with the Knights” “The Maiden in the Tent” “The Red Knight” “Gornemant” Blackboard Writing Assignment Reading Quiz	Breton & French Arthur
7/20 F	Chretien de Troyes, <i>Perceval</i> – “Blancheflor, Anguigeron, and Clamadeu” “The Grail” “Perceval’s Cousin” Reading Quiz	Breton & French Arthur
7/23 M	Chretien de Troyes, <i>Perceval</i> – “The Proud Knight of the Moor” “Blood on the Snow” “The Ugly Maiden and Guinganbresil” Reading Quiz	Breton & French Arthur
7/24 T	Chretien de Troyes, <i>Perceval</i> – “The Maid with Little Sleeves” “Escavalon” “Perceval’s Hermit Uncle” “Greoreas and the Evil Maiden” Reading Quiz	Breton & French Arthur
7/25 W	Chretien de Troyes, <i>Perceval</i> -- “The Wondrous Bed” “The Guiromelant” Group Project Prospectus DUE Reading Quiz	Breton & French Arthur
7/26 R	Unit Introduction; RoA, Ch. 19 “ <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> ” Mock Trial Groups Assigned + Rubric Distributed Reading Quiz	British & English Arthur
7/27 F	RoA, Ch. 20 “ <i>The Wedding of Sir Gawain and Dame Ragnelle</i> ” Reading Quiz	British & English Arthur
7/30 M	RoA, Ch. 21 “ <i>The Alliterative Morte Arthure</i> : Excerpts” Short Essay DUE Reading Quiz	British & English Arthur
7/31 T	Unit Introduction; Alfred Tennyson, <i>Idylls of the King</i> , “The Coming of Arthur” “Gareth and Lynette” Reading Quiz	Medievalisms
8/1 W	Alfred Tennyson, <i>Idylls of the King</i> , “The Marriage of Geraint” “Geraint and Enid” “Balin and Balan” Reading Quiz	Medievalisms
8/2 R	Alfred Tennyson, <i>Idylls of the King</i> , “Merlin and Vivien” “Lancelot and Elaine” Blackboard Writing Assignment Reading Quiz	Medievalisms

