

Fall/Winter 2020-2021

AP/EN 4504 6.0A (Y)	<i>Arthurian Literature</i>
Course Director:	Natalia Khomenko Office: Atkinson 708 Ext. 44752 e-mail: khomenko@yorku.ca
Time:	Tuesday 4-7 pm
Delivery Format:	REMOTE – (synchronous delivery) – There are scheduled meeting times for this course (see above). Students should plan to be available for course-related activities during the appointed times. For more information, see the Description and/or Requirements below.
Description:	<p>The stories of King Arthur and his knights have captured 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 then focus on detail on the creation of Arthuriana as a genre from the twelfth to the fifteenth century (including Geoffrey of Monmouth, Chrétien de Troyes, Marie de France, Chaucer, and a range of late Middle English chivalric romances).</p> <p>In the second half of the course, we will closely examine Thomas Malory’s <i>Le Morte D’Arthur</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, T.H. White, Disney, and Kazuo Ishiguro).</p> <p>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. Some of the materials will be read in translation from Latin, Old French, and Middle Welsh, but we will also be reading some romances in their original Middle English.</p>

	This course will be delivered both through recorded lectures (audio over computer screen) and in Zoom sessions (approximately 6 every semester). The students will be expected to attend the Zoom sessions, familiarize themselves with the lectures, and contribute to the weekly online forums on Moodle.
Category:	C
Historical Requirement:	Time Period I (pre-1700)
Requirements:	Fall essay proposal: 5% Fall term essay – 15% Winter term essay proposal & annotated bibliography – 10% Winter term research essay – 20% Short response papers (2 each semester): 20% Translation exercises (fall semester): 10% Collaborative annotation exercise (winter semester): 5% Participation (Zoom sessions and online forums) – 15%
Reading List:	This course will rely on Arthurian materials published online throughout the fall semester, including the York University In Parentheses Publications database and of the University of Rochester Robbins Library Digital Projects database. In the winter semester, we will use: 1) Sir Thomas Malory's <i>Le Morte D'Arthur</i> (Winchester Manuscript, edited by Helen Cooper, Oxford Paperbacks Publication, 2008). There are numerous editions of Malory: please be sure to get this one, either in hard copy or as an e-book, 2) Kazuo Ishiguro's <i>The Buried Giant</i> (2015). Any edition is acceptable. We will also be using a range of readings available through York University Library subscriptions or through open-access databases.
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