

Fall 2013

ENG 225: THE AGE OF KING ARTHUR

T,Th 10-11:20 in 204 Chapman

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course website: on Blackboard*

PART ONE: COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

In “The Age of Arthur” we will read literature from a variety of medieval genres, including instructions on how to behave during a love affair, Arthurian romances about Lancelot, an infuriating Cinderella-like tale, and late medieval mystical writings. We will consider the ways various medieval authors explore three fundamental questions that the Middle Ages bequeathed the modern era: Is the highest form of love that which is freely given, or is it better to fulfill one’s vows? Can one give away one’s will, or are there limits to obedience? Can language be used to talk about the unknowable, and can we know the truth of another person’s experience?

As an introduction to the literature of the Middle Ages set against the backdrop of medieval culture, this course is designed to present a more extensive selection of accessible and representative texts from the Middle Ages than is available in ENG 220, “Introduction to the English Major,” as well as to offer an introductory window on the Middle Ages to non-literature majors. Students will gain skills in attentive analytical reading and in writing about this literature. Most texts will be read in translation, but a few short works will be presented in Middle English, allowing students to glimpse the beginnings of modern English. My intention is that this class will cultivate an appreciation of a culture that is markedly different from ours in some ways, and that in other ways serves as the foundation for modern society.

Grading Breakdown:

Participation:	15%	Essay 1:	15%	Personal Essay:	15%
Daily Quizzes:*	20%	Essay 2 (with proposal):	20%	Final Exam:	15%

*In lieu of midterm

Required Texts: Do not buy e-books.

Coursepacket available at the Duck Store.

Chrétien de Troyes. *The Complete Romances of Chrétien de Troyes*. Trans. David Staines. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1990. ISBN: 978-0253207876

Kempe, Margery. *The Book of Margery Kempe*. Trans. and ed. by Lynn Staley. New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 2001. ISBN: 978-0393976397

Malory, Thomas. *Le Morte Darthur: The Winchester Manuscript*. Ed. Helen Cooper. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1998. ISBN: 0192824201

Anonymous. *The Cloud of Unknowing and Other Works*. Trans. A.C. Spearing. London: Penguin, 2001. 978-0140447620

Recommended:

Hacker, Diana. *Rules for Writers*, 6th ed. Boston: Bedford/St. Martin’s, 2010. (If you already own a stylebook, you may use the one you have. If you do not currently own a style book, you should buy this. Earlier editions won’t have the latest word on citing electronic sources, but they’ll do for most things.)

PART TWO: SYLLABUS

Readings and assignments are listed on the day they are due.

Week 1

T Oct. 1 Introduction: The Medieval World
Th Oct. 3 Andreas Capellanus, *On Love*, Introduction (skim!); Book I, pp. 33-47; dialogue C, pp. 73-87; dialogue G, pp. 133-57; book II, chs. 1-4, pp. 225-35; Rules of Love, pp. 283-5. Coursepacket.

Week 2

T Oct. 8 Chrétien de Troyes, *The Knight of the Cart*, pp. 170-231 (through paragraph ending, "When the king heard this oath, he felt no joy").
Th Oct. 10 Chrétien, *The Knight of the Cart*, pp. 231-56.
DUE: Essay 1

Week 3

T Oct. 15 Chrétien de Troyes, *Erec and Enide*, pp. 1-57 (through paragraph ending, "Cadoc of Carlisle rode off with his young lady ... to report the news to King Arthur and the queen").
Th Oct. 17 Chrétien, *Erec and Enide*, pp. 57-86.

Week 4

T Oct. 22 Thomas Malory, *Le Morte Darthur*, "A Noble Tale of Sir Lancelot du Lake," pp. 95-119; "Of Sir Galahad, Sir Lancelot's Son," and "Of Sir Lancelot," pp. 281-303
Th Oct. 24 Malory, *Le Morte Darthur*, "The Noble Tale of the Sangrail," Lancelot chapters and final chapter, pp. 310-20, 329-34, 346-50, 388-402.

Week 5

T Oct. 29 Malory, *Le Morte Darthur*, "The Tale of Sir Lancelot and Queen Guenivere," pp. 403-67.
Th Oct. 31 Malory, *Le Morte Darthur*, "The Death of Arthur," pp. 468-527.

Week 6

T Nov. 5 Augustine of Hippo, *The City of God*, Introduction (skim), book XIV, chapters 13-26, 28. Coursepacket.
Th Nov. 7 Augustine of Hippo, *On Christian Doctrine*, Introduction (skim), Book 1, chapters iii-v, vii-x, and xxii-xxix. Coursepacket.

Week 7

T Nov. 12 Andreas Capellanus, *On Love*, excerpt against women. Coursepacket.
Christine de Pizan, Introduction and Griselda story from *The Book of the City of Ladies*. Coursepacket.
Francesco Petrarca, "Griselda." Coursepacket.
Excerpts from the book of Job. Coursepacket. (Not required reading. Included for those who don't know the Job story.)

Th Nov. 14 Geoffrey Chaucer, *Canterbury Tales*, "Introduction" (skim).

“General Prologue.” To give context to the situation and characters in the later tale, read at least the opening on pp. 3-4 (until the description of the Knight), the Clerk’s description on pp. 10-11, and the closing on pp. 22-26.

“The Clerk’s Tale.” Read this carefully. All readings are in the coursepacket.

Week 8

T Nov. 19 Geoffrey Chaucer, *Canterbury Tales*, “The Clerk’s Tale,” re-read in Middle English. Coursepacket.

Th Nov. 21 *The Cloud of Unknowing*, Introduction; pp. 11-19; chs. 1-7, 10-12, 16, 23-25, 43, 45-47, 50-51, 62-66, 74-75.
DUE: Essay 2 Proposal

Week 9

T Nov. 26 Excerpts from Julian of Norwich, *Revelations of Divine Love*, pp. 480-97.
Coursepacket.

Th Nov. 28 NO CLASS, Thanksgiving Holiday

Week 10

T Dec. 3 Margery Kempe, Margery introduces herself, Prologue and chs. 1-5, 9, 11-12, 14-17, 20-22. Margery goes to Jerusalem, chs. 26-31, 34-39, 43.

Th Dec. 5 Margery Kempe, Margery accused of heresy, chs. 46-49, 51-55, plus prayer on pp. 180-4 and the Constitutions of Thomas Arundel, pp. 187-96.
DUE: Essay 2

Final: 8am Monday, December 9

Personal Essay due by Friday, December 13 at 10am