

Winter 2016

ENG 225: THE AGE OF KING ARTHUR

T,Th at 2pm in 2-3.50 in 202 Chapman

*Instructor: Professor Stephanie Clark
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office hours: T,Th 4-5.30
course website: on Canvas*

PART ONE: COURSE DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

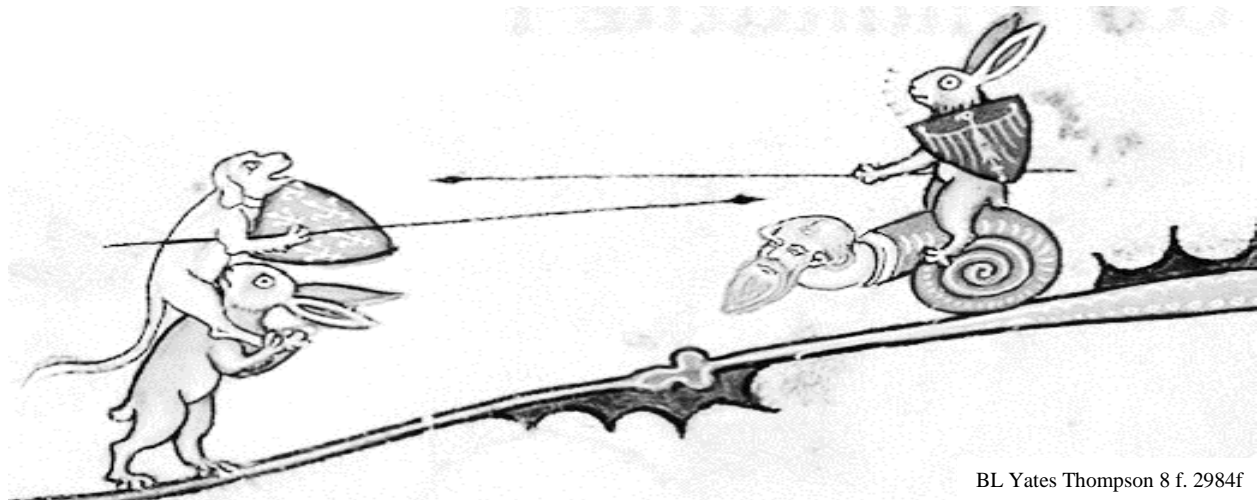
In “The Age of Arthur” we will read literature from a variety of medieval genres, including instructions on how to behave during a love affair, Arthurian romances about Lancelot, an infuriating Cinderella-like tale, and late medieval mystical writings. We will consider the ways various medieval authors 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



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Required Texts*

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

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

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

*** Medieval texts exist in many different versions. It's important that you get the ones assigned so we're all working from the same text. Do not buy e-books.**

Recommended:

Any style/grammar book as a reference for MLA style and to look up grammatical issues marked in your papers (online resources are generally not accurate enough to rely on).

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Main Goals: To better understand and more accurately represent the main ideas of medieval texts, to recognize the specific questions they explore and the cultural assumptions embedded within them. This class will also allow you to situate yourself more deeply within the long tradition of English literature and thought as well as to gain greater knowledge of some of the early literary traditions similar to it.

Read/Analyze. Your careful reading of the assigned texts in preparation for class should give you greater awareness of the particular characteristics of narrative-based or literary ways of knowing about the world. Lectures will orient you to the formal characteristics of medieval literature and to cultural contexts for interpretation. You should gain ability in analyzing and articulating which specific features in a medieval text carry medieval cultural content. Class discussion will give you opportunity to practice these skills.

Contextualize. The introductions to assigned texts read in preparation for class and class lectures will introduce major terminologies and methodologies necessary for the study of medieval literature. In addition, these two resources will help situate the texts read within their cultural, historical, and literary contexts. You should thus become able to recognize the cultural phenomena of the medieval world and analyze its presence in the primary texts. You should also be able to articulate continuities and breaks between the medieval and modern worlds. Both class discussion and the written assignments will give opportunity to practice and to try out your ideas.

Write. The written assignments are structured to train you in crafting persuasive and logical arguments from textual evidence. To gain greatest benefit, you must allow yourself adequate time for writing and revising; some of that is built into the process through the series of stepped assignments including a brief comparative paper, a paper proposal, and final essay. You should therefore gain skill in writing focused analytic essays in clear grammatical prose that advance an original argument. There are various resources on campus to help you; my office hours are one of them.

PART TWO: SYLLABUS

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

Week 1

- T Mar. 29 Introduction: The Medieval World
Th Mar. 31 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 Apr. 5 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 Apr. 7 Chrétien, *The Knight of the Cart*, pp. 231-56.

Week 3

- T Apr. 12 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 Apr. 14 Chrétien, *Erec and Enide*, pp. 57-86.
DUE: Essay 1

Week 4

- T Apr. 19 Thomas Malory, *Le Morte Darthur*, “How Uther Pendragon begot the Noble Conqueror King Arthur,” pp. 3-32; “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 Apr. 21 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 Apr. 26 Malory, *Le Morte Darthur*, “The Tale of Sir Lancelot and Queen Guenivere,” pp. 403-67.
Th Apr. 28 Malory, *Le Morte Darthur*, “The Death of Arthur,” pp. 468-527.

Week 6

- T May 3 Augustine of Hippo, *The City of God*, Introduction (skim), book XIV, chapters 13-26, 28. Coursepacket.
Th May 5 Augustine of Hippo, *On Christian Doctrine*, Introduction (skim), Book 1, chapters iii-v, vii-x, and xxii-xxix. Coursepacket.

Week 7

- T May 10 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 Petrarch, “Griselda.” Coursepacket.
Excerpts from the book of Job. Coursepacket. (Not required reading. Included for those who don’t know the Job story.)

Th May 12 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 May 17 Geoffrey Chaucer, *Canterbury Tales*, “The Clerk’s Tale,” re-read in Middle English. Coursepacket.

Th May 19 *The Cloud of Unknowing*, Introduction; pp. 11-56 (ch. 33). We’ll focus esp. on pp. 11-19 and chs. 1-7, 10-12, 16, 23-25.
DUE: Essay 2 Proposal

Week 9

T May 24 *The Cloud of Unknowing*, pp. 56-101. We’ll focus esp. on chs. 43, 45-47, 50-51, 62-66, 74-75.

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

Week 10

T May 31 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 Jun. 2 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: 12.30 Wednesday, June 8

Personal Essay due by the time of the final exam. Bring hard copy to my office.