

FYOS 1001: First-Year Odyssey Seminar: "The Arthurian Quest in France"
Syllabus: Fall 2011

Professor Catherine Jones
Gilbert 305
phone: 542-3159
email: cmjones@uga.edu

Office Hours:
Tuesday & Thursday 11-12,
and by appointment

Course objectives

- Introduce students to the Arthurian tradition in France by analyzing representations of knighthood and the quest in medieval French romance and two modern film adaptations.
- Provide an overview of past and current research into the Arthurian legend.
- Introduce students to the intellectual and cultural life of the University.

Required text: Chrétien de Troyes, *Arthurian Romances*, trans. William W. Kibler, Penguin Classics; available at UGA Bookstore and also as a Kindle book. *Please use only this edition.

Recommended Reading: Norris J. Lacy et al., *The Arthurian Handbook*. and *The New Arthurian Encyclopedia* (Both are located in the Reference Room on the first floor of the library.)

Grade Distribution

PARTICIPATION (attendance, contributions to discussion -- in class and on eLC): 40%
WEEKLY WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS: 40%
ATTENDANCE AT 3 CAMPUS EVENTS (cultural or intellectual); & REACTION PAPERS 20%

For guidelines on writing a reaction paper, see:

<http://www.temple.edu/writingctr/handouts/disciplines/reactionpapers.htm>

* Class attendance is mandatory; a maximum of **two absences** will be allowed. After two absences, you will be dropped from the class.

** **No late assignments** will be accepted; they must be completed and **sent as an attachment over eLC before class**, as they will provide the basis for discussion. *I will drop the lowest grade on the weekly written assignments (excluding the reaction papers).

*** **No laptops or cell phones** may be used in class.

**** **Campus events:** Qualifying events are UGA-sponsored lectures, UGA theatrical or musical performances, UGA art exhibits, department colloquia or research seminars. If you are not sure whether a particular event qualifies, please check with me in advance.

Arthurian websites

The Camelot Project <http://www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/CPHOME.stm>

Britannia History <http://www.britannia.com/history/arthur/kapopular.html> (Internet Magazine with annoying ads, but also some interesting links)

Programme

N.B. Reading assignments are to be completed *before* the class period for which they are listed.

- Aug. 16 Introduction: The Arthurian Romance in France and its Cultural Context
- 23 The Historical Arthur; introduction to Chrétien de Troyes.
Reading: Chrétien de Troyes, *Arthurian Romances*, Introduction (p. 1-25)
 (Optional reading: *The Arthurian Handbook*, chapter 1)
 ***Written assignment 1:** define terms / identify historical figures on handout
- 30 Reading: *The Knight with the Lion*, pp. 295-330
 * **Written assignment 2:** answer guide questions (see eLC)
- Sept 6 Reading: *The Knight with the Lion*, pp. 330-353
 * **Written assignment 3:** answer guide questions (see eLC)
- 13 Reading: *The Knight with the Lion*, pp. 354-380
 * **Turn in Reaction Paper 1** (*minimum 250 words*)
- 20 Reading: *The Knight of the Cart*, pp. 207-234
 * **Written assignment 4:** answer guide questions (see eLC)
- 27 Reading: *The Knight of the Cart*, pp. 234-263
 * **Written assignment 5:** answer guide questions (see eLC)
- Oct. 4 Reading: *The Knight of the Cart*, pp. 263-294
 * **Written assignment 6:** formulate five questions on the reading, and provide answers. Questions should be analytical in nature (i.e. not asking for plot points).
- 11 View Film (in class): *Lancelot du Lac*
 * **Turn in Reaction Paper 2** (*minimum 250 words*)
- 18 Discussion of Film: *Lancelot du Lac*
 * **Written assignment 7:** discussion questions on film, to be started in class as small-group assignment; complete the assignment after class and send to me via eLC before the next class period.
- 25 Reading : Marie de France, “Lanval”
<http://www.english.ufl.edu/exemplaria/marie/lanval.pdf>
 * **Written assignment 8:** * **Find at least 5 examples of “the Holy Grail”** in contemporary journalism, advertising. Analyze the meaning and function of “Holy Grail” in each context (one paragraph per example).

- Nov. 1 Reading: *The Story of the Grail*, pp. 381-402
* **Written assignment 9:** answer guide questions (see eLC)
- 8 Reading: *The Story of the Grail*, pp. 403-433
* **Written assignment 10:** answer guide questions (see eLC)
Film: *Perceval le Gallois* (excerpts)
- 15 Reading: *The Story of the Grail*, pp. 433-461 [stop after "... before I speak of Perceval again."]
* **Turn in Reaction Paper 3** (*minimum 250 words*)
- 29 *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* (excerpts)
-

*There is no final examination in this course.