

Instructor: Mark Rasmussen

Class times: Monday/Wednesday, 10:00 – 12:30

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World War I recruiting poster issued by the Parliamentary Recruiting Committee

Required Texts

James J. Wilhelm, ed., *The Romance of Arthur*, third edition (Garland, 2013)
Sir Thomas Malory, *Le Morte Darthur*, ed. Helen Cooper (Oxford, 1998)
Alfred, Lord Tennyson, *Idylls of the King* (Penguin, 1989)
Mark Twain, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* (Modern Library, 2001)
Bernard Malamud, *The Natural* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003; orig. pub. 1952)

Recommended

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, trans. Simon Armitage (Norton, 2008)

Out-of-class film showings (times to be determined):

Excalibur (1981), *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* (1975), *The Green Knight* (2021)

Schedule of Assignments

Wednesday, July 1st

first half: Introduction to the course, Arthur in the Latin chronicles (Wilhelm, 1-8).
second half: Arthur in the Welsh tradition, *Culhwch and Olwen* (Wilhelm, 9-57).

Discuss final project, hand out topic.

Monday, July 6th

first half: Arthur in Geoffrey of Monmouth (Wilhelm, 58-87).
second half: Wace and Layamon, (Wilhelm, 88-111).

Wednesday, July 8th

first half: Chrétien de Troyes, *Lancelot* (I) (Wilhelm, 112-43).
second half: Chrétien de Troyes, *Lancelot* (II) (Wilhelm, 143-80), and Wolfram von Eschenbach, *Parzival*, Book III and excerpt from Book V (Canvas).

Discuss short paper, hand out topic.

Monday, July 13th

first half: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, parts 1 and 2 (Wilhelm, 409-39, or Armitage, 21-95).

second half: *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, parts 3 and 4 (Wilhelm, 440-75, or Armitage, 96-189).

Wednesday, July 15th

first half: Malory, *Le Morte Darthur*, 3-57, 95-119. Also read editor's introduction, vii-xxii, and Caxton's Preface, 528-30.

second half: Malory, *Le Morte Darthur*, 120-68.

*****short paper due by midnight, Thursday, July 16th.**

Friday, July 17th – Saturday, July 18th

Overnight visit to Arthurian sites: Stonehenge, Glastonbury, Tintagel

Monday, July 20th

first half: Malory, *Le Morte Darthur*, 310-20, 396-467
second half: Malory, *Le Morte Darthur*, 468-527.

Conferences on final projects this week.

Thursday, July 23rd

first half: Alfred, Lord Tennyson, “The Lady of Shalott” (Canvas), and “Dedication” and “The Coming of Arthur” from *Idylls of the King*, 19-35.

second half: “Gareth and Lynette” and “Lancelot and Elaine” from *Idylls of the King*, 36-75, 168-205.

***Please note that this is a re-scheduled class. Students unable to attend are encouraged to meet separately with the instructor to discuss the reading.

Monday, July 27th

first half: “The Holy Grail,” “Guenevere,” “The Passing of Arthur,” and “To the Queen” from *Idylls of the King*, 206-230, 269-302

second half: Arthur and the pre-Raphaelites

Thursday, July 30th

first half: discuss *Excalibur*.

second half: Mark Twain, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court*, 3-137.

***Please note that this is a re-scheduled class. Students unable to attend are encouraged to meet separately with the instructor to discuss the material.

Monday, August 3rd

first half: discuss *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*.

second half: *Connecticut Yankee*, 139-455

Evening presentations on final projects this week.

Wednesday, August 5th

first half: Bernard Malamud, *The Natural*

second half: discuss *The Green Knight*.

Last thoughts and fond farewells.

Final Projects due by midnight, August 6th.

Course Requirements

Short paper	50 points
Class participation	50 points
Final project	<u>100 points</u>
	200 points/2 = your grade

A+=100-97, A= 96-93, A-=92-90, B+=89-87, B=86-83, B-=82-80, C+=79-77
C=76-73, C-=72-70, D=69-66