

## **HISTORY 320/420, TOPICS IN MEDIEVAL CIVILIZATION: CHIVALRY**

Spring 2019

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**Requirements**—unfailing attendance and analytical contributions to discussions based on active reading; possibly a report or two on special topics for seminars. Primary goal is a major research paper of about 15-20 pp based on primary sources, with support from relevant secondary sources. Optional reading is listed for the hardy and for possible use in your research. If you want to utilize Kaeuper, Medieval Chivalry (Cambridge UP, 2016), note the suggested pp at end of each section.

### **SEMINAR TOPICS AND READINGS:**

**16 Jan:** INTRODUCTION TO THEMES

### **UNIT ONE, APPROACHES TO CHIVALRY**

**23 Jan:** PROBLEMS OF ROMANTICISM &THE VOICE OF A PRACTICING KNIGHT

Combined Primary/Secondary sources:

--Leon Gautier (1832-1897), Chivalry, ed J. Levron, tr D.C. Dinning, 9-33 (i.e. chapt 2)

--The Boy Scout Handbook (1910), “History of Chivalry”

-- R Kaeuper and E Kennedy, The Book of Chivalry of Geoffroi de Charny [facing page Middle Fr and Eng trans] **OR** Kaeuper/Kennedy, r A Knight’s Own Book of Chivalry. [English translation only]

optional:

-- [a bit of the] Lancelot, tr.S Rosenberg, pp 3-61 (i.e. Sections 1 through 21) in N Lacy, gen. ed, Lancelot-Grail Vol I.

--Mark Girouard, The Return to Camelot (look at pictures, read selections)

--RWK, Medieval Chivalry (Cambridge, 2016),pp 1-25

**30 Jan:** CONTINUING THE SEARCH FOR MEDIEVAL CHIVALRY

(1)A biography from across the Pyrenees: Don Pero Niiño.

(2) Considering the imperatives of honor.

Primary source:

--The Unconquered Knight, ed, tr. Joan Evans

Secondary sources:

--J Pitt-Rivers, "Honour and Social Status," in Peristiany, ed, Honour and Shame in Mediterranean Society.

RWK, Medieval Chivalry, pp 25-57, for this and 6 Feb seminar)

**6 Feb:** Best biography of a model knight, WILLIAM MARSHAL (and his modern biographers)

Nigel Bryant, tr., The History of William Marshal (2016); ideally read the entire book, but at least a hundred plus pages (especially on the early career).

Possible report subjects:

--Sidney Painter, William Marshal (1933)

--Georges Duby, William Marshal (1985)

--David Crouch, William Marshal (1990) 1-133[ and 150-195]

## UNIT TWO: CHIVALRY AT WORK IN THE MEDIEVAL WORLD

### **13 Feb:** CHIVALRY, WAR AND CRUSADE

Primary sources: [sample at least a hundred pp of each]

--Joinville, "Life of Saint Louis" in Shaw, ed, tr., Chronicles of the Crusades (read actual crusade narrative, rather than (or in addition to) the discussion of character and governance of Louis)

--Nigel Bryant, tr, The True Chronicle of Jean le Bel

Secondary sources:

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RWK, Medieval Chivalry, pp 161-208)

### **20 Feb:** CHIVALRY, KINGSHIP AND PUBLIC ORDER

Primary sources:

--"Song of Roland" ed., tr., F Goldin

--"Crowning of Louis" in G Price, ed. tr, William of Orange: Four Old French Epics

--"Raoul de Cambrai," ed., tr, either by S Kay or R Abels

Optional Secondary sources:

--Kaeuper, War, Justice and Public Order, pp 1-133, **OR** --Kaeuper, "Literature as the Key to Chivalric Ideology," Journal of Medieval Military History IV (2006) **OR** idem, Chivalry and Violence, pp 45-89.

RWK, Medieval Chivalry, pp 239-264.

### **27 Feb:** Chivalric Love and Sport

(1) Love, Courtly and Otherwise &

(2) Esxtreme Sport of Tournament

Primary sources:

Marie de France, two lais: “le Châtelain” and “Lai le Fresne”

Story of Galehaut and Lancelot from Lancelot-Grail Cycle, gen. ed Norris Lacy.

Optional primary source reading:

--Chretien de Troyes, Lancelot, various translations available

Secondary sources:

--Roberta Krueger, Women Readers and the Ideology of Gender, 1-32.

--D Crouch, Tournament (2005) (up to his set of documents)

--M Keen, “Chivalry and Courtly Love,” Nobles, Knights, and Men at Arms, 21-42.

--Fiona Swabey, Eleanor of Aquitaine, Courtly Love, and the Troubadours, 55-82.

--RWK, Medieval Chivalry, pp 311-353; 208-239)

## **6 March: CHIVALRY, RELIGION AND THE CHURCH**

Primary sources:

--Bernard of Clairvaux, “On the Praise of the New Knighthood”, ed., tr., Greenia

--“Ordene de Chevalerie”

--“Tale of Balain” from Lancelot-Grail Cycle

--“Robert the Devil” OR “Sir Gowther”

Optional primary sources:

--“Quest of the Holy Grail” tr. E. Jane Burns from vol IV of Lancelot-Grail Cycle, N Lacy gen ed. or in the translation by Pauline Matarasso.

RWK, Medieval Chivalry, pp 264-321)

.....*Spring Break*.....

**20 March: preliminary reports** on possible research topics by all students.

**27 March:** Individual Conferences on Paper Topics: Preliminary bibliography prepared

**10 April** Individual Conferences; GENUINE PROGRESS is expected!

**1 May:** Seminar Reports on Papers

### **Some Suggestions for Sources Useful for Research Papers:**

Several primary sources in print are simply outstanding and could inform more than one topic: Marjorie Chibnall, ed., tr., The Ecclesiastical History of Orderic Vitallis (multi-volume work by a Norman monk—not simply a “church history”)

Many counts of the Hundred Years War campaigning exist. Various translations of the chronicles of Jean Froissart, the most famous, can be found. See also Nigel Bryant, tr, The Chronicle of Jean le Bel, and David Preest, tr The Chronicle of Geoffrey le Baker. The Conquest of Lisbon, tr. Charles W. David, is often overlooked. Many of these would combine nicely with Nicholar Wright, Knights and Peasants.

Holden, Gregory, and Crouch, ed, tr, History of William Marshal (multi-volume history of the greatest cross-Channel knight late 12thC/early 13thC) [I have e-copy, from which word searches can be made] . We have used the newer prose translation of N. Bryant.

Norris Lacy, gen ed., Lancelot-Grail Cycle (the five great Old French Arthurian romances and their “continuations” translated by a team of scholars) [I have e-copy that is word-searchable].

Scott and Bland, ed., tr, Caesarius of Heisterbach, Dialogue on Miracles (splendid stories about knights in these serman “exempla” taken from confessions).

A plentiful supply of English royal governmental records exist in the form of “Calendars,” English translations of the out-letters enrolled on parchment rolls by clerks. There are Calendars of Patent, Close and Fine Rolls, which I will happily explain. All are thoroughly indexed.

For French records (and French readers), the Actes du Parlement are partially printed (four volumes 1254-1350). These are law court records, not “parliamentary” in the English sense. They could be used in combination with other French works which I could suggest.

The romances of Chrétien de Troyes have all been translated (and by more than a single scholar). Many French romances came into Middle English as well and can easily be found.

Many Old French chansons de geste have been translated. A fine example is the Glanville Price et al, ed., tr, William of Orange; Four Old French Epics. Michael Newth has translated both individual works and sets of works, e.g. Heroes of the French Epic. There are Middle High German text translations, also.