History 211—History from Myth: King Arthur and Robin Hood; Spring Term, 2011
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Requirements: (1) Alert attendance at every class, with contributions to our discussions, based on critical reading. (2) Two analytical essays and a final, take-home essay exam.

Note: if you feel the need for more historical background, consult Hollister and Bennett, Medieval Europe, A Short History (in which relevant sections are noted in parentheses below).

SCHEDULE, WITH READING ASSIGNMENTS

PART ONE: ARTHURIAN MYTHS

24 January: Introduction to our themes and evidence

31 January: Historical Arthur?
   Geoffrey Ashe, Discovery 1-164
   "Kihlhwch and Olwen" (electronic reserve; also on web)
   Stephen Knight, “Chief of the Princes of this Island”, Arthurian Literature and Society,
   (chapter runs 1-37, but you need only read 12-35) (electronic reserve)
   (Hollister and Bennett, chapters 1,2,3)

7 February: Arthur Enters the Mainstream
   Geoffrey of Monmouth, History, Arthurian sections [RR Lib; Camelot Project]
   Painter, French Chivalry, 1-65 [or as much further as time allows]
   (Hollister and Bennett, chapters 7, 8, 9)

14 February: Arthur Crosses the Channel (or at least we do)
   Chrétien de Troyes, Yvain, The Knight of the Lion
   Painter, French Chivalry, 65-172
   (Hollister and Bennett, chapters 11, 12)

21 February: (1) FIRST PAPER DUE: Discussion on topic. (2) Learning to read Malory!

28 February: Individual meetings on papers

[Spring Break]

14 March: Violence, Courtesy, Kingship
   Alliterative Morte Arthure {NOT Malory, Morte Darthur} (RRLib:Camelot)
   Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
   Passages from Story of Merlin ,tr. Rupert T. Pickens (electronic reserve)
   (Hollister and Bennett, chapters 13, 14)

21 March: Malory’s “Moste Kynge” and “Hygh Ordre of Knyghthood”
   Vinaver, Malory.Works, 1-175, 477-506
28 March: The Fall of the Round Table
   Vinaver, Malory. Works, 513-727

4 April: Twain’s 19th-Century Parody
   Twain, Connecticut Yankee

11 April: (1) SECOND PAPER DUE. (2) View "Monty Python and the Holy Grail"

PART TWO: ROBIN HOOD TALES

18 April: Attitudes toward Governance, Lay and Ecclesiastical
   Pollard, Imagining Robin Hood, [NB: Read this entire book in this Part Two of the
   course, as you have time]
   [All the following are on reserve:]
   Tale of Gamelyn, ed. T. Ohlgren, translated by John Geck
   Kaeuper, “The Evidence of Literature,” War, Justice and Public Order, 315-47
   Chaucer, "Friar's Tale"
   R.W. Southern, Western Society and the Church, 34-52

25 April: The Medieval Robin Hood: Man and Myth
   Medieval Robin Hood Tales, ed. Knight and Ohlgren [web and electronic reserve]:
   Geste
   Robin Hood and the Monk
   Robin Hood and the Potter
   John Maddicott, "The Birth and Setting of the Ballads of Robin Hood,"
   English Historical Review 93 (1978), 276-99 [reserve]

2 May: The Great Rising of 1381
   E.B. Fryde, The Great Rising of 1381 [reserve]
   (Hollister and Bennett, chapters 13, 14)

FINAL, COMPREHENSIVE ESSAY DUE TUESDAY 3 MAY

BOOKS AVAILABLE IN BOOKSTORE

Geoffrey Ashe, The Discovery of King Arthur
Sidney Painter, *French Chivalry*
Ruth Cline. tr., *Yvain, or the Knight with the Lion*
Marie Boroff, tr., *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
Eugène Vinaver, ed., *Malory. Works*
Mark Twain, *Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court*
Anthony Pollard, *Imagining Robin Hood*
CW Hollister and Judith Bennett, *Medieval Europe, A Short History*