

## **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

"Kilhwch 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  
R.I. Moore, "The Origins of Medieval Heresy," History (1978), 21-36

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