

ePORTFOLIO

The main stream of Arthurian literature has flowed from the French and English sources. However, the foundation of the entire tradition is Celtic, mainly Welsh, and German literature has made important contributions. At the same time, the legend has been attractive to southern European civilizations of Spain and Italy. Central to Arthurian stories since the 12th century has been the code of chivalry, variously conceived. It was important to the European exploration of the Far East and the New World and to the culture of the American South in the 19th century. The code also finds its parallels in other warrior cultures, especially the Islamic and Japanese.

Pick any *one* of these subjects for your research (pick one and stick with it, so choose carefully). Below is a list of books on all of these topics. They are available on reserve in Preston Library. You should use the book appropriate to your chosen country and period **as a starting point**, but you should **also write about things you've found on your own**. Your ePortfolio will be in the nature of an electronic journal, with a capstone reflective essay.

I have created a Drop Box for each of you in Angel under "Lessons." Beginning with **Monday, February 18, through Monday, April 15**, you will save in that drop box at least one journal entry per week, skipping Spring Furlough (for a **minimum total of 8**). These will constitute the "artifacts" for your ePortfolio. These journal entries should focus on your weekly reading in your chosen book or other appropriate material you read or watch, **drawing connections between the topic and your textbook readings** (*The Arthurian Handbook*, Geoffrey of Monmouth, Chrétien de Troyes, and *The Lancelot-Grail Cycle*, and Malory). If you are reading about real people like Saladin or historical samurai, you should focus on the degree to which the chivalry of the fictional Arthurian knights does or does not match the actions of the actual medieval figures. Otherwise, you will be **comparing and contrasting fictional figures in terms of the cultural values you think they represent respectively** (e.g., how the behavior of the Knights of the Round Table compares with that of Arthur's warriors in the Welsh tales or of fictional samurai).

In addition to your chosen book in Preston, you can find other appropriate material in the library or online. For example, watching and commenting on a movie would be appropriate, such as Robert Bresson's *Lancelot du Lac* and Erich Rohmer's *Perceval le Gallois*, if you are researching the French Arthurian tradition (both are available at W&L) or some of Akira Kurosawa's samurai movies. Kevin Harty's collection of essays, *Cinema Arthuriana*, is also a good introduction to Arthurian films, and several essays discuss the cultural values displayed in different national cinemas. YouTube is also a source of Arthurian material that you might analyze in your journal entries if they are appropriate to your chosen country. Paintings and still photos can also be subjects to write about, as well as all kinds of written primary material (if you are writing about chivalry in the 19th-century antebellum American south, for example, writings in the VMI Archive about the Code of the Gentleman could make valuable sources).

Note that your cultural comparisons may have to take into account time as well as place. For example, some German Arthurian stories you read about may be contemporary with the medieval works you are reading in class, but others may be later, and in the case of movies, modern, so you may have to consider that medieval German culture and modern German culture might make very different uses of stories of Arthurian chivalry.

Each entry should be **in MS Word** (double-spaced 12 point Times New Roman font), at least half a page long and no more than a full page. **The title for each entry should be a short description of your chosen topic, followed by the date you posted it in the following format: Crusades and Chivalry mm/dd/yy.**

Individual journal entries will not be graded, but **you must turn all of them in *on time* (TAPS each of the 8 Mondays. Exceptions: no entry is due during Spring Furlough; for the Mondays after the weekends of Easter and FTX, you have an extension to TAPS on Wednesday of that week).**

You will be penalized 1/3 of a grade off your ePortfolio essay for every entry that is posted late! If you do not turn in a journal entry at least *a full day before the next one is due*, it will be a full letter grade off the paper *each time*, so do not let them pile up.

I will make frequent comments on your journal entry to guide you towards keeping your focus on cultural analysis and not just summaries of what you've read or seen, with an eye towards going into some depth in your reflective essay.

For your ePortfolio submission, **SELECT** ePortfolio artifacts from the work you have collected over the course of the semester. Your artifacts must demonstrate that you have met the Core Curriculum learning outcomes. Using your ePortfolio artifacts to support your analysis, write a 1000-1250 word **REFLECTIVE** essay in which you evaluate your success in meeting the designated core curriculum learning outcomes:

- Appreciate a culture's distinctiveness either through texts or experiential contact
- Identify cultures of the world and the components and practices that distinguish them from others.
- Please note that you should also draw connections between these cultures in terms of their similarities.

See the handout "Guidelines for the ePortfolio Reflective Essay" for more details about actually writing the paper.

COMPLETED PORTFOLIO DUE MONDAY, APRIL 29 BY CAD

BOOK LIST FOR CIVILIZATIONS AND CULTURES

- Blomberg, Catharina. *The Heart of the Warrior: Origins and Religious Background of the Samurai System in Feudal Japan*. Sandgate, Folkestone, Kent: Japan Library, 1994.
- Coe, Jon B., and Simon Young, eds. *The Celtic Sources for the Arthurian Legend*. Felinfach, Lampeter: Llanerch Publishers, 1995.
- Entwistle, William J. *Arthurian Legend in the Literatures of the Spanish Peninsula*. New York: Phaeton Press, 1975.
- Gardner, Edmund Garratt. *The Arthurian Legend in Italian Literature*. London, Dent; New York, Dutton, 1930.
- Goodman, Jennifer R. *Chivalry and Exploration, 1298-1630*. Woodbridge, UK; Rochester, NY: Boydell Press, 1998.
- Jackson, W.H., and S.A. Ranawake, eds. *The Arthur of the Germans: The Arthurian Legend in Medieval German Literature and Life*. Cardiff : University of Wales Press, 2000.
- Purdie, Rhiannon, and Nicola Royan, eds. *The Scots and Medieval Arthurian Legend*. Cambridge [England]; Rochester, NY: D.S. Brewer, 2005.
- Reston, Jr., James. *Warriors of God: Richard the Lionheart and Saladin in the Third Crusade*. London: Faber, 2001.
- Rosebault, Charles J. *Saladin, Prince of Chivalry*. New York: R. M. McBride & Company, 1930.
- Turnbull, Stephen. *Warriors of Medieval Japan*. New York: Osprey Publishing, 2007.
- Varley, H. Paul. *Warriors of Japan as Portrayed in the War Tales*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 1994.
- Watson, Jr., Ritchie Devon. *Yeoman Versus Cavalier: The Old Southwest's Fictional Road to Rebellion*. Baton Rouge : Louisiana State University Press, 1993.