

# Arthur

HIST 4101, Spring 1998, TR 8:00-9:15 AM, ADM 228  
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This history seminar traces the Arthurian legend through history, literature, and the arts. Beginning with some of the earliest surviving Arthurian materials, we will survey the major artifacts and documents as the legend grew over the past 1500 years.

## Texts

- Richard Barber, *King Arthur: Hero and Legend* (The Boydell Press, 1986)
- Geoffrey of Monmouth, *History of the Kings of Britain* (Penguin)
- Sir Thomas Malory, *Le Morte D'Arthur* (Penguin)
- Mark Twain, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* (Penguin)
- William Strunk, Jr. and E. B. White, *Elements of Style* (Macmillan, 3e, 1979)
- A collegiate dictionary and thesaurus

At the end of the course students should be able to:

- Understand several major trends in the history of the Arthurian legend 500-1998 AD.
- Understand relationships between the interconnected elements of history, including music, philosophy, literature, religion, and the plastic arts.
- Know how to write a response essay.
- Know how to use email and the World Wide Web as educational and research tools.

## Grades

Three elements will constitute your final grade:

- **Writings** (50%), in two parts:
  - periodic **Responses** to primary materials, answering the five basic questions of any good reporter (who, what, when, where, and why [i.e., significance]) and/or reflecting on the reading.
  - **Email reports** on your Internet reading beyond the required assignments. Spend at least a half an hour for every assignment, exploring Arthurian Internet sites on our course pages. Then send an email posting to the class ([arthur@catawba.edu](mailto:arthur@catawba.edu)) describing the sites that you studied. Among the questions that you might answer are: What exactly did you look at? Why did you choose those sites? What did you learn? These postings are due no later than midnight (11:59:59 PM) on the dates indicated on our assignment page.
- **Class participation** (30%)
- A final **paper** on your independent project on interpretations of the Arthurian legends (20%). Your project should draw on works beyond our studies. In 5-10 typed pages (depending on the nature of your project), concentrate either on
  - a single theme (i.e., the Grail) or character (i.e., Gawain), or
  - a major individual work or works: writings either fictional (including 20<sup>th</sup>-century's C. S. Lewis, T.H.White, Mary Stewart, Marion Zimmer Bradley, Bernard Cornwell) or nonfictional (Leslie Alcock, Geoffrey Ashe, John Morris), or the arts (films, music, paintings).

A one-page detailed prospectus outlining your project is due by April 7<sup>th</sup>. The final Project is due April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Date	Day	Assignments
JAN 13	T	<b>In the Beginning . . .</b> -- <i>King Arthur: His Life and Legends</i> (1996, 50 minutes)
15	R	<b>The Elusive Hero I</b> -- Barber 1 [16 pp.] -- Meet in the Ketner Computer Lab
20	T	<b>II</b> -- Barber 1 and Michael Wood, "King Arthur," <i>In Search of the Dark Ages</i> (1987), 37-60 [23 pp.] [L, no R]
22	R	<b>Arthur the Emperor I: Geoffrey of Monmouth</b> -- Barber 2 [30 pp.] and <i>History of the Kings of Britain</i> , pp. 50-55.1, 71.2-74, 145.2-148 [12 pp.]
27	T	<b>II</b> -- Geoffrey, pp. 149-211 [62 pp.]
29	R	<b>III</b> -- Geoffrey, pp. 212-267.3 [55 pp.]
FEB 3	T	<b>Arthur and His Court</b> -- Barber 3 [35 pp.]
5	R	<b>II</b> -- "Lancelot" [L, 12 pp.]. <b>Email 1</b> due by midnight (11:59:59 PM).
10	T	<b>The Arthurian Legend in Germany and England</b> -- Barber 4-5 [28 pp.]
12	R	<b>The Flower of Chivalry I: Thomas Malory</b> -- Barber 6 [11 pp.] and <i>Le Morte D'Arthur</i> , Book 1 [50 pp.]
17	T	<b>II: The Emperor and Launcelot</b> -- Malory 5-6 [63 pages]
19	R	<b>III: Tristram and Isode, Launcelot and Elayne</b> -- Malory 8.1-38 and 11-12 [117 pp.]
24	T	<b>IV: The Holy Grail I</b> -- Malory 13-15 [62 pp.]
26	R	<b>V: The Holy Grail II</b> -- Malory 16-17 [71 pp.]
28-8 MAR		Spring Break
10	T	<b>VI: Sir Launcelot and Queen Guinevere</b> -- Malory 7 [82 pp.]
12	R	<b>VII: The Death of Arthur</b> -- Malory 8 [76 pp.]
17	T	<b>Modern Arthurs I</b> -- Barber 7 [21 pp.] and "Cervantes" [L, 10 pp.]
19	R	<b>II: Tennyson</b> -- Barber 8 [32] and "Tennyson" [L, 8 pp.]. <b>Email 2</b> due.
24	T	<b>III: Twain</b> -- Barber 9 [21 pp.] and <i>A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court</i> , Chapters 1-8 [58 pp.]
26	R	<b>IV</b> -- Twain 9-21 [100 pp.]
31	T	<b>V</b> -- Twain, 22-33 [112 pp.]
APR 2	R	<b>VI</b> -- Twain 34-end [100 pp.]
7	T	<b>ArtFilms I: Jean Cocteau</b> -- <i>L'Eternel Retour</i> (1944, 111 minutes). <b>Project Prospectus</b> due.
9	R	<b>II: Alan Jay Lerner and Frederick Lowe</b> -- <i>Camelot</i> (1967 film, 179 minutes). <b>Email 3</b> due.
14	T	<b>III: Robert Bresson</b> -- <i>Lancelot du Lak</i> (1974, 80 minutes) -- start 7:55 AM.
16	R	<b>IV: Monty Python</b> -- <i>Monty Python's Holy Grail</i> (1975, 90 minutes) -- start 7:45 AM.
21	T	<b>V: John Boorman</b> -- <i>Excalibur</i> (1983, 141 Minutes).
23	R	<b>VI</b> -- <i>Excalibur</i> .
28	T	<b>VII: Terry Gilliam</b> -- <i>The Fisher King</i> (1991, 137 minutes). <b>Projects</b> due.
30	R	<b>VIII</b> -- <i>The Fisher King</i> . <b>Email 4</b> due.
MAY 5	T	<b>ArtTalk</b> -- Project Reports (8:00-10:00 AM)