

FACULTY OF ARTS

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

ENGLISH 388.05-01

FALL 2013

COURSE TITLE: CAMELOT! King Arthur in Popular Culture

Instructor: J. Jenkins
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Class Time: M/W 3:30—4:45 pm (ENA 101)
Office hours: Wednesday, 1:00–2:30 pm

Course description:

In this class, we will explore the enduring appeal of Arthur, the Once and Future King, in popular literature, visual art, film and television, and graphic and digital media. Beginning with the Victorians, we will investigate the ways Arthur and his court of Camelot are reborn and remade across time, and the many roles he, his knights, and the women of his world continue to play in the narratives we tell about ourselves. But Arthur is not just reborn across time: he has also been reborn across genres and adapted within various cultural forms. Therefore, in addition to the legends of Camelot as told in Malory's *Morte Darthur* (which we'll read in a late-Victorian adaptation), topics for discussion in this class will include the Arthur of contemporary fiction and poetry, of film (e.g. *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* and *First Knight*), in graphic novels and in comics (e.g. *Camelot 3000*).

As all readings will be in Modern English and/or modernized versions of medieval texts, no previous knowledge of Middle English or of the medieval Arthurian legends is necessary for this course.

Prerequisites:

Texts:

- Lang, Andrew. *King Arthur: Tales from the Round Table*. Dover. [available in Bookstore]
- Armitage, Simon, trans. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*. Norton Publishing. [available in Bookstore]
- Barr, Mike and Brian Bolland. *Camelot 3000*. DC Comics. [available in Bookstore]

Other readings will be assigned from two central online databases: **the Camelot Project at the University of Rochester** [<http://www.lib.rochester.edu/camelot/cphome.stm>]; and through **Project Gutenberg** [<http://www.gutenberg.org>]. Details and links will be provided on the reading schedule.

The following films are required viewing for the class:

- *Monty Python and the Holy Grail*. Dir. Terry Gilliam and Terry Jones. 1975
- *Excalibur*. Dir. John Boorman. Orion Pictures, 1981.
- *First Knight*. Dir. Jerry Zucker. Columbia Pictures, 1995.

- *King Arthur*. Dir. Antoine Fuqua. Touchstone Pictures, 2004.

Please Note: These films will not be screened in class. All of the assigned films (and several other Arthurian adaptations) are on reserve in the TFDL library; students are required to see the films by the week assigned and are encouraged to access the films through our library, the Calgary Public Library, or iTunes or Amazon (amazon.ca) as is most convenient. It is possible to view the films in the library, either in small groups (of up to 25) or individually; more information about booking rooms in the library will be provided in class.

Independent Reading Assignment:

In addition to the texts assigned for class, each student will choose **one** novel from the following list to read by November 4, 2013. This novel will be the primary text for the essay assignment (due Monday, Dec 2; 5 d.s. pp; 25%). These novels have not been ordered through the Bookstore, so students will be expected to access copies on their own; I recommend accessing the titles through the TFDL Library or the Calgary Public Library, through one of the city’s bookstores or an online bookseller, or an an e-book. Please make your choice early and get your book as soon as is possible: some of them are LONG. More information about the assignment, along with summaries about the books to help you make your choice, will be provided in class.

- Bradley, Marion Zimmer. *The Mists of Avalon*. (1983)
- Crossley-Holland. *Arthur: the Seeing Stone*. (2000)
- Kay, Guy Gavriel. *The Fionavar Tapestry*. (Three volumes: *The Summer Tree; The Wandering Fire; the Darkest Road*.) (1984-86)
- Stewart, Mary. *The Crystal Cave*. (1970)
- Sutcliff, Rosemary. *The Sword and the Circle*. (1981) **OR** *The Sword at Sunset*. (1963)
- Woolley, Persia. *Queen of the Summer Stars*. (Second in *The Guinevere Trilogy*.) (1991)

Assignments and Evaluation:

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| • In-Class Test (Oct 16, 2013) | 25% |
| • Research Assignment (due Nov 4, 2013) | 20% |
| • Essay (1500 words; 5 d.s. pp; due Dec 2, 2013) | 25% |
| • Final Exam | 30% |

Please note the following class requirements and information:

- There will be a Registrar scheduled exam in this class. Fall examination dates are December 9-19, 2013. Students must be available for examinations up to the last day of the examination period. The final exam will not be open book, and no computers or other electronic devices (including phones) will be allowed during the exam.
- You must write the final exam in order to receive a passing grade in the course.
- Please make all efforts to take assignments directly to the instructor. If it is not possible to do so, take your assignment to SS1152 and put it in the dropbox, where your assignment will be date-stamped and placed in the instructor's mailbox. Please keep a copy of your assignment in case of loss by any cause. Assignments **cannot be returned** by staff in the Department office.
- Do not submit an assignment electronically (i.e. via email) without making prior arrangements with instructor.
- **Computer Use in Class:** You are welcome to use computers for taking notes in class. However, it is not permissible to use your computer during class time for any other purpose, including any

form of electronic communication such as email or other social media. If at any point I have reason to suspect computers are being used in ways not appropriate for our class, I will require that users turn computers off and return them to their bags. In the case of repeated misuse of computers by individuals in the class, I reserve the right to disallow the use of personal computers during class time.

- You are required to use the textbook assigned, and to bring it to class each day.

Late assignment policy:

Assignments are due at the beginning of class on the day assigned. Extensions must be negotiated with me before the due date; all late work (i.e. work handed in later than the beginning of the class on the day assigned without an extension, or work handed in after the extended deadline) will be penalised one letter grade (for example, from B+ to C+) and may receive significantly reduced written comments. Late work will not be accepted later than one week past the deadline without documented medical reasons.

Grading system:

When marking, I rely on the University of Calgary's four-point system:

A+/A (4.0); A- (3.7); B+ (3.3); B (3.0); B- (2.7); C+ (2.3); C (2.0); C- (1.7); D+ (1.3); D (1.0); F (0)

In general, I assign marks in letter grades for class assignments, and convert the letter-grades to the four-point system according to the scale given above. When it is necessary to convert grades between letter grades and percentage ranges, I use the following system: □

90 + %	A+	4.0
85 – 89 %	A	4.0
80 – 84 %	A–	3.7
77 – 79 %	B+	3.3
74 – 76 %	B	3.0
70 – 73 %	B–	2.7
67 – 69 %	C+	2.3
64 – 66 %	C	2.0
60 – 63 %	C–	1.7
55 – 59 %	D+	1.3
50 – 54 %	D	1.0
0 – 49 %	F	0

When tabulating final grades in the four-point system, it occasionally happens that a final grade falls at the exact middle point between two grades, for example at 3.15 (precisely half-way between 3.0 (B) and 3.3 (B+)). If a grade calculation requires that a final grade be rounded either up or down, such decisions are entirely at the instructor's discretion.

Although the A+ is solely an honorific that entails no additional points in the four-point system, the course instructor will employ this mark to distinguish superlative work that exceeds expectations in style, correctness, intellectual depth and breadth, sophistication, and originality.

Plagiarism:

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possible suspension or expulsion from the university. Please refer to the following information and make sure you are familiar with the statement below on plagiarism.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k-2-1.html>

Scribe and Muse Club for English Students:

The Scribe and Muse Reading and Writing Club (SMRWC) fosters and champions reading and writing through community service, leadership, and engagement. We strive to enhance the academic and social experience of undergraduate students by promoting academic excellence and interaction between students, faculty, and the community, through social, cultural, and academic events. **<http://english.ucalgary.ca/scribe-and-muse-english-club>**

Our email address is **smec@ucalgary.ca**.

English Department Website:

For more information about courses, programs, policies, events and contacts in the Department of English, please go to our website at **<http://english.ucalgary.ca>**. Please note that the course outlines posted on the English Department website constitute the official course outline for purposes of appeals. Students should verify any hard copies against this posted version. For courses which employ numerical grades, the official departmental percentage to letter grade conversion scale is also posted on the department website.

Writing support:

The Student Success Centre offers both online and workshop writing support for U of C students.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>

Follow the Department of English on Facebook & Twitter:**Academic regulations and schedules:**

Consult the Calendar for course information, university and faculty regulations, dates, deadlines and schedules, student, faculty and university rights and responsibilities. The homepage for the University Calendar is

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/index.htm>

Guidelines on e-mail Etiquette:

<https://www.ucalgary.ca/it/help/articles/email/etiquette>

Grade appeals:

Consult the following University Calendar link and request advice from the English Department office, SS 1152. Please note that “mere dissatisfaction with a decision is not sufficient grounds for the appeal of a grade or other academic decision.”

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/i.html>

Deferral of term work and final examinations:

Should you require an extension for completion of term papers or assignments beyond the deadline of five days after the end of lectures, an Application of Deferment of Term Work form must be completed. The University also has regulations governing the deferral of final examinations. See Calendar:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html>,

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html>.

Academic Accommodation:

It is the students' responsibility to request academic accommodations. If you are a student with a documented disability who may require academic accommodations and have not registered with Student Accessibility Services, please contact them at 403-220-6019. Students who have not registered with Student Accessibility Services are not eligible for formal academic accommodations. More information about academic accommodations can be found at www.ucalgary.ca/access.

Emergency Evacuation/Assembly Points: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>;

Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip>

“Safewalk” Program:

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night: call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot pay booths.

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk/>

Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:

Have a question, but not sure where to start? The new Faculty of Arts Program Information Centre (PIC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at SS110, call us at 403-220-3580 or email us at artsads@ucalgary.ca. You can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at

<http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate> which has detailed information on common academic concerns.

For program planning and advice, contact the Student Success Centre (formerly the Undergraduate programs Office) at (403) 220-5881 or visit them in their new space on the 3rd Floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library.

For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at (403) 210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Library Block.

Contact for Students Union Representatives for the Faculty of Arts:

arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca

Contact for Students Ombudsman's Office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

PLAGIARISM

Plagiarism is an extremely serious offence. Please read the following information carefully. The penalty routinely recommended by the English Department for documented plagiarism is failure of the course in which the offence occurred; academic probation is also routinely applied at the Faculty level. Suspension or expulsion can result from severe or repeated plagiarism.

The University Calendar states:

1. Plagiarism - Essentially plagiarism involves submitting or presenting work in a course as if it were the student's own work done expressly for that particular course when, in fact, it is not. Most commonly plagiarism exists when:

- (a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test),
- (b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author,
- (c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or,
- (d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted.

Plagiarism occurs when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement, or when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. Citing your sources in a bibliography is not enough, because a bibliography does not establish which parts of a student's work are taken from other sources. MLA (Modern Language Association) documentation or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose. Advice on adequate documentation can be found at the following web sites:

<http://www.dianahacker.com/resdoc/>

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/>

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH STATEMENT ON PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

According to the University Calendar, (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/j.html>)

“The University of Calgary community has undertaken to be guided by the following statements of purpose and values: to promote free inquiry and debate, to act as a community of scholars, . . ., to respect, appreciate, and encourage diversity, [and] to display care and concern for community”. The Department of English, like the university as a whole, is committed to a “positive and productive learning and working environment.” This environment is characterized by appreciation and encouragement of diversity and respect for the dignity of all persons: students, support staff, and faculty. The department will not tolerate unacceptable behaviour, such as threatening gestures, threatening or abusive verbal or written communication (including e-mails), or any conduct that “seriously disrupts the lawful education and related activities of students and/or university staff”. Any cases of such misconduct should be reported immediately to the department Head, who, depending on the nature and severity of the incident, may then take further appropriate action.