
QUEENS, FAIRIES & HAGS: ROMANCE OF MEDIEVAL GENDER in Fall 2020 (GS3075)

Course Code	GS3075	Professor(s)	Elizabeth Kinne
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G-117
Class Schedule	M: 14:30-16:05 in G-L22 R: 12:40-14:15 in G-009	Office Hours	R by appointment
Credits	4	Email	ekinne@aup.edu
Semester	Fall 2020	Office Tel. Ext.	

Course Description

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

Chivalric exploits, adulterous queens, cross-dressing antics, benevolent fairies, mistaken identities, lusty hags, spiritual encounters, courtly lovers, the perils of fortune, and devoted wives are the stuff of this course. Together, we will embark on a quest for understanding of the conventions of medieval romance, Arthurian and otherwise, through the lens of gender and sexuality. These early European vernacular texts established a series of social values and practices for their readerships. As such, medieval romance was a genre of predilection for establishing highly codified and easily recognizable normative femininities and masculinities. This particularity also made transgression within the universe of romance all the more meaningful. We will explore medieval texts and the social contexts of their production and reception, the aspirations and contradictions of the idealized, and at times parodied, representations of the Arthurian universe, and the heteronormative world of knighthood and courtly love. Feminist theory, queer theory and studies in gender and sexuality will inform our readings of these texts and expose students to new critical approaches in the field of medieval studies. While the main focus of the course will be on romance and Arthurian literature, other texts and genres such as the fabliaux will enrich our knowledge of the possibilities for relationships between the sexes, self-knowledge, and identity in the Middle Ages.

Course Learning Outcomes

To explain the genesis of Arthurian literature and identify the generic specificities of medieval

romance.

To apply feminist and queer theory to medieval texts to better inform their interpretations.

To compare primary texts and produce literary criticism, read medieval texts, literary criticism and theory in order to provide personal understandings and interpretations of the course material.

To demonstrate the skills needed as young scholars in academia, drafting and present research projects.

General Education

Course Outline

PRELIMINARY CLASS OUTLINE (subject to change):

***N.B. Owing to the extraordinary sanitary challenges of the FA20 semester, we may be forced to revert to hybrid learning with synchronous sessions via Teams during the semester and the modalities of some assignments may change in that case. You will be informed of any changes by your instructor well in advance of their due date. The readings will remain unchanged.

Class	Date	Topic of discussion & quiz topics	Readings/assignments due th
1	Thurs Sept 24	Course Introduction	
2	Mon Sept 28	The Origins	TROA Chap. 1 and 2 Arthur in the Arthur in the Early Welsh Tradition <i>Handbook</i> , "Chronology and origi

3	Thurs Oct 1	Arthur, an English King	TROA Chap. 4 Arthur in Geoffrey Monmouth, <i>The Arthurian Handbook</i>
4	Mon Oct 5	Arthur, the Channel and Legitimacy	TROA Chap. 5 and 6 Wace, <i>Roman Brut</i> , Layamon, <i>Brut</i> ,
5	Thurs Oct 8	The French Tradition: Mettre en romanz	TROA Chap. 7 Chrétien de Troy <i>Knight of the Cart</i> , pp.112-136; <i>Handbook</i> , 60-88
6	Mon Oct 12	The Emergence of “Courtly Love”	TROA Chap. 7 Chrétien de Troy <i>Knight of the Cart</i> , pp.136-158
7	Thurs Oct 15	How to end a kingdom	TROA Chap. 7 Chrétien de Troy <i>Knight of the Cart</i> , pp.158-180
8	Mon Oct 19		Book Chapter: Simon Gaunt “The match: romance” from <i>Gender and medieval French Literature (online)</i>
9	Thurs Oct 22	Midterm exam	Midterm exam
10	Mon Oct 26		TROA Chap. 8, 9, and 10 The G
11	Thurs Oct 29		TROA Chap. 12 <i>The Saga of the</i>
12	Mon Nov 2		TROA Chap. 13 <i>The Romance of</i>

			Annotated MLA Bibliography
13	Thurs Nov 5		TROA Chap. 14 and 16 <i>Tristan</i>
14	Mon Nov 9		TROA Chap. 20 <i>The Wedding of Dame Ragnelle</i>
<i>Fall break – Nov 11-13 – NO CLASS on Friday Nov 13</i>			
15	Mon Nov 16		TROA Chap. 17 The Prose <i>Merlin</i> , pp. 324-25 and pp. 362-3
16	Thurs Nov 19		<i>Silence</i> (excerpts) Fabliau: “Berengier of the Longa
17	Mon Nov 23		<i>Silence</i> (excerpts) Article: Kathleen M. Blumreich “the Old French ‘Roman de Silen
18	Thurs Nov 26	No Class	Final research project consult Kinne via Teams
19	Mon Nov 30		The Misuses of Arthur: Medieval alt-right (readings TBD)
20	Thurs Dec 3	No Class	Final research project consult Kinne via Teams
21	Mon Dec 7	No Class	

			Final research project consult Kinne via Teams
22	Thurs Dec 10	Course wrap-up	TROA Chap. 21 <i>The Alliterative</i> excerpts; Chap. 22 Sir Thomas <i>Darthur</i>

December 11th: Last day of classes; December 12th –15th: Reading days

Final Research Projects: Due Dec. 11th by midnight on Blackboard

**Final Exam: Individual Presentations of Research Projects (via Teams) Dec. 17th,
17:30-19:30**

Textbooks

This course doesn't have any textbook.

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

[Covid-19 temporary amendments: Students studying at The American University of Paris are STILL EXPECTED TO ATTEND ALL scheduled classes. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, students will have the option of attending classes remotely when special circumstances apply, for example when students are placed under quarantine by the French authorities or by their doctor, or when students present symptoms of Covid-19 and are directed, by their doctor or the AUP Health Office, to remain home. It is still the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that their professor might have set in the course syllabus. In particular, Students attending remotely from distant Time Zones should check with their professors about the specific attendance policy for remote learners.](#)

Grading Policy

GRADING:

ASSIGNMENTS:

10% Textual Analyses/Close Readings on BB: Three during the semester on assigned passages; three during the semester on texts/passages of your choice; **please see**

Blackboard for these assignments.

20% Midterm

10% Annotated MLA Research Bibliography

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- 5% **Final Research Project Conference with Prof. Kinne**
 - 25% **Final Research Project**
 - 20% **Final Research Presentation (in lieu of a final exam)**
 - 10% **Attendance, participation, preparation, and discussion leading**

Textual Analyses/Close Readings on BB

In preparation for in-class discussion, you will occasionally be asked to submit a brief textual analysis/close reading for that day's reading assignment on Blackboard prior to class.

Midterm

The midterm will take place during normal class time and consist of ten short answer questions regarding the Arthurian tradition. You will choose a select number of questions to answer.

Final Research Project: This project will consist of various steps during the semester:

- **Six close readings** that will help you to deepen your understanding of the texts at hand and upon which you will draw for your analyses (**three** must be re-drafted to include secondary sources in the final research project)
- **Annotated MLA Research Bibliography:** Consists of five sources that you will evaluate to support the arguments of your research project.
- **Introduction and Conclusion:** Drafted, carefully crafted introduction and conclusion to your project.

Research Project Presentation: A short presentation during which you briefly present your research project to the class and address the feedback I have given you on your research project.

Attendance, participation, preparation, informal presentations, and discussion leading

Excellent preparation, assiduous attendance, and vigorous participation are all keys to success in any course. Your fulfilment of these requirements will affect your grade. Each student will also have the opportunity to lead class discussion with a partner once during the semester. You will be responsible for preparing the readings very attentively, drafting discussion questions and

moderating the discussion and debate.

Leading discussion:

You will lead discussion at least once during the semester with a partner. This exercise does not involve summarizing the work we have read for the day, but rather, choosing the important textual features/passages at hand and leading the class to a better understanding of the interplay between genre and gender. It also involves calling our attention to the beauty, strangeness and pleasures of reading medieval works. You will be responsible for finding at least one scholarly source in order to better understand the work at hand which you will present to the class and providing it in PDF format for our collective bibliography. You must also post the notes from your discussion to Blackboard. This is a one hour and exercise must engage the class and provide pertinent, accurate information all while displaying your own literary sensitivity, critical reading and thinking skills.

The Arthurian Library

Prof. Kinne has a variety of volumes of Arthurian scholarship in her office. You are welcome to consult them in support of your research projects.

GRADING SCALE:

A- Excellent; student is working to the maximum of their potential; demonstrates original, critical thinking, superior writing and research skills.

B- Good; student demonstrates potential; original ideas and sound writing and research skills.

C- Adequate; student demonstrates an understanding of the course material but could improve originality or critical skills; writing and research skills are mediocre.

D- Inadequate; insufficient thought, care or time have been given to the assignment; poor comprehension of material, poor writing and research; does not meet minimum requirements of the assignment.

F- Failing; unacceptable work; does not demonstrate an understanding of course material, is incomplete; critical thinking, writing and research skills need immediate and urgent attention for improvement AND/OR the assignment has been plagiarized.

Other

CLASSROOM ETIQUETTE AND HEALTH & SAFETY MEASURES

- **Bring all assigned online readings to class.** If you prefer to read online, you may bring a portable device instead – but please talk to me first so I know you're not using the device to surf the web during class time.
- **Submit all assignments on time.** All assignments are to be submitted on Blackboard. Written assignments submitted late will go down by a proportion of a letter grade for every day late, i.e. A becomes A-, A- becomes B+, etc.
- **Any assignment that is proven to be plagiarised will receive a zero and serious cases will result in an automatic F for the course.** Plagiarism is academic misconduct and a serious breach of university policy. University disciplinary procedures will be carried out in case of infraction.
- Please be respectful of others and **do not use your mobile phones or computers for personal reasons** during class.
- **Attendance at all classes is required, whether on campus or online. Tardiness is greatly frowned upon;** you will not be allowed into the classroom if you are over **ten** minutes late and will receive an unexcused absence. Excessive absence (more than four missed classes) will jeopardize your success in this course. If you have to be absent from class, please inform me as soon as possible, by e-mail, about the reasons for your absence. If you miss three consecutive classes, you must explain your absence to Student Affairs, who will then contact me.
- **Distance Learning Students:** All students learning remotely this semester will have a weekly check-in with Prof. Kinne via Teams at a mutually convenient time.
- **Quarantine/Self-isolation:** It may be that at some point in the semester, some or all of us will have to be quarantined or on lockdown. If that occurs, AUP has many platforms in place for us to continue to learn together. If you are unable to come to class because of quarantine, make sure you communicate with me immediately and join the class

remotely via Teams (at the same time as our class is scheduled). If I am quarantined, I will be teaching via Teams and you will all be joining remotely. We will need to be flexible and adaptable to changing contexts this semester together and engage in joint problem solving. Good communication will be key!

- **Special health and safety measures during the reign of COVID-19:**
 - Please, for everyone's safety you must **wash your hands** well before you enter the classroom. You are required to **wear a mask** during all face-to-face classroom time or for individual meetings with me or other students. The mask must cover your nose and mouth at all times. No exceptions!
 - Unfortunately, **no food or drink** will be allowed inside the classroom.
 - **If you feel ill, DO NOT COME TO CLASS.** If you are well enough, you can join us online instead. If you experience ANY symptoms consistent with COVID-19 (fever, dry cough, aches and pains, respiratory difficulty), please seek medical help immediately. Make sure to keep me informed, and get a note from the doctor if you have to be absent from class.