

GH 101: King Arthur

Sections 96 and 97

Spring 2015

Professor Margaret Sinex

Office: Simpkins Hall, RM 226A

Office Telephone: 298-1424, Main English Department Office: 298-1103

Email: ma-sinex@wiu.edu

Class Meetings: Section 96 Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 1:00 – 1:50 in Simpkins 214

Section 97 Monday, Wednesday, Friday at 11:00 – 11:50 in Simpkins

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Office hours: Monday 10:00 – 11:00, 2:00 – 3:00, Wednesday 2:00 – 3:00, Friday 10:00 – 11:00 and by Appointment.

Your successful completion of this course depends on the crucial information provided in this syllabus. If you lose your copy, please print a replacement from your Western Online site for this class.

Course Description:

Aim: General Honors 101: King Arthur will allow students to satisfy their ENG 180 or ENG 280 writing requirement.

Description: This Freshman Humanities course will examine the development of the Arthurian tradition beginning with Mary Stewart's *The Hollow Hills* a novel that tells the tale of Arthur's conception, birth and upbringing from the point of view of Merlin the enchanter. Stewart sets these events in the chaotic, violent aftermath of the Roman withdrawal from Britain and offers us a jumping off place to explore the origins of central characters. We will investigate Merlin's roots in early medieval Welsh texts. We will also examine the transformation of Morgan Fe Fay from a powerful, benign, healing figure associated with goddesses early on to one of the King's most dangerous enemies by the end of the medieval period. And we will trace King Arthur's development over the centuries as he gradually emerges into a fully realized character in the works of major writers such as Thomas Malory and the poet Tennyson. In addition we will consider the question when did famous objects such as the Sword in the Stone, the Round Table and the Holy Grail first enter the Arthurian stories?

Teaching Method: This course combines group discussions and lecture.

Prerequisites: Students must be enrolled in the Centennial Honors College. Students may be eligible to receive WIU advanced placement credit for ENG 180 or ENG 280 but not for both ENG 180 and ENG 280. This course satisfies both General Education and Humanities requirements.

Catalog Description: 101 Freshman Humanities Tutorial. (2 – 3, repeatable only if second tutorial is taught by a different department). (General Education/ Humanities) Reading, writing, and discussion on topics in the humanities to be announced in advance. Designed primarily for freshman.

Required Texts

Texts are available at the Union Bookstore. After a few weeks, the Bookstore will return unsold copies, so order what you need now.

Used copies may be available at Chapman's Book and Office Supply 717 W. Adams Street. (ph) 833 – 4509.

Alfred, Lord Tennyson. *Idylls of the King*. Ed. J. M. Gray. New York: Penguin, 1996. ISBN 0140422536.

Hacker, Diana and Sommers, Nancy. *A Pocket Manual of Style*. 6th ed. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2012. ISBN 0312542542

Lacy, Norris J., and James J. Wilhelm, eds. *The Romance of Arthur: An Anthology of Medieval Texts in Translation*. 3rd ed. London and New York: Routledge, 2013. ISBN 0415782899.

Stewart, Mary. *The Hollow Hills*. New York: EOS, 2003. ISBN 0060548266.

Course Requirements:

Five Short Papers

Research Paper (280)

Long Paper (180)

Final Exam

Evaluation:

50%

30%

30%

20%

Scale

89 – 87 = B+	79 – 77 = C+	69 – 67 = D+
100 – 95 = A	86 – 83 = B	76 – 73 = C
94 – 90 = A-	82 – 80 = B-	72 – 70 = C-
		66 – 63 = D
		62 – 60 = D-

Course Policies:

Communication: I use WIU email to reach students; please supply me with your primary email address **today** if you do not use your WIU address. You can also drop a note in my mailbox or phone my office number. (The Voicemail is full at the moment.) I post the course syllabus and additional assigned readings on **Western Online**; I do not make use of its other functions.

Failure to comply with the following policies will lower your grade.

1. **Attendance and Participation:** Your regular, punctual attendance in class is mandatory. For this class, you have three unexplained absences. After that, each class missed will result in two points off your final grade (out of a possible 100 points) for the course. Participation in the class discussion is essential to forming a reading community in this course; consequently, participation is an integral part of your final grade. If you are present in body but never speak or fail to read the assignment, or asleep you are not participating.
2. **All assigned reading** must be completed in its entirety for the classing meetings as noted in the Course Schedule.
3. **All Papers** must be written in accordance with MLA guidelines and are due on the assigned date at the beginning of class. Phone me or email me **before** the due date if you have a legitimate reason for being unable to meet a deadline and we may be able to accommodate you.

4. Behavior that is discourteous to your fellow classmates and consistently interferes with his or her learning experience in our classroom will not be tolerated. Please treat one another with the consideration and respect each of you deserves. No verbal attacks on a classmate are permissible. Using profanity before the class begins, during class or following class is not acceptable.

Entering the classroom late and leaving the room during the period are distracting to your classmates and intensely annoying to me. Cell phones and all other devices will be turned off **before entering** the classroom. Remove your baseball cap for the duration of class. Why? Because the university classroom is a formal space reserved for discussion and lecture and men do not wear hats indoors in formal spaces.

Remember: if you can see my face clearly, I can see yours with equal clarity. Consider your facial expression during class period.

5. Academic dishonesty: Academic dishonesty, including but not limited to “plagiarism, fabrication and falsification, [and] cheating” will not be tolerated and will be dealt with in accordance with Western Illinois University’s Student Academic Integrity Policy. To learn about infractions and procedures see: www.wiu.edu/policies/acintegrity.php.

In her *A Pocket Manual of Style* 6th ed., Diana Hacker defines plagiarism as “(1) failing to cite quotations and borrowed ideas, (2) failing to enclose borrowed language in quotation marks, and (3) failing to put summaries and paraphrases in your own words” (115).

Americans with Disabilities Act:

“In accordance with University policy and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), academic accommodations may be made for any student who notifies the instructor of the need for an accommodation. For the instructor to provide the proper accommodation(s), you must obtain documentation of the need for an accommodation through Disability Support Services and provide it to the instructor. It is imperative that you take the initiative to bring such needs to the instructor’s attention, as he/she is not legally permitted to inquire about such particular needs of students. Students who may require special assistance in emergency evacuations (i.e. fire, tornado, etc) should contact the instructor as to the most appropriate procedures to follow in such an emergency. Contact Disability Support Services at 298-2512 for additional services.”

Course Schedule:

The schedule is subject to change according to the needs of the class. All changes will be announced in a timely manner; it is your responsibility to keep informed of any alterations in the schedule.

Week 1 Jan. M 19

The portion of the course devoted to *The Hollow Hills* will include readings about topics such as: evidence for the historical Arthur, the building of Stonehenge, post-Roman Britain, and the earliest references to Merlin. (Readings will be announced and posted on Western Online)

- W 21 Introduction and Syllabus
 F 23 *The Hollow Hills*. Read Author's Note, The Legend, Locate Map
- Week 2 M 26 *The Hollow Hills* How does a legendary figure differ from a
 mythological one?
 W 28 *The Hollow Hills*
 F 30 *The Hollow Hills*
- Week 3 Feb. M 2 *The Hollow Hills*
 W 4 *The Hollow Hills*
 F 6 *The Hollow Hills*
- Week 4 M 9 *The Hollow Hills*
 W 11 *The Hollow Hills*
 F 13 *The Hollow Hills*
- Week 5 M 16 *The Hollow Hills*
 W 18 **Research/ Long Paper Instructions Distributed**
 F 20 *The Hollow Hills*
- Week 6 M 23 Finish *The Hollow Hills*
 W 25 Introduction to Wace in *The Romance of Arthur*.

 F 27 Wace's *The Brut* in *The Romance of Arthur*.
- Week 7 Mar. M 2 *The Prose Merlin* in *The Romance of Arthur*.

 W 4 **The Suite du Merlin** in *The Romance of Arthur*.
 F 6 Malory, The Sword in the Stone episode in *The Romance of Arthur*.
- Week 8 M 9 Introduction to Tennyson and *Idylls of the King*.
 W 11 "The Coming of Arthur" in *Idylls of the King*.
 F 13 "The Coming of Arthur" in *Idylls of the King*.
- Week 9 M 16 **March Break. No Class.**
- Week 10 M 23 "The Coming of Arthur" in *Idylls of the King*.
 W 25 Research Papers/Long Papers.
 F 27 Research Papers/Long Papers.
- Week 11 M 30 Research Papers/Long Papers.
 Apr. W 1 Conference

- F 3 Conference
- Week 12 **M 6 Research Paper/Long Paper due in class.**
W 8 “Balin and Balan” in *Idylls of the King*
F 10 “Balin and Balan” in *Idylls of the King*
- Week 13 M 13 “Balin and Balan” in *Idylls of the King*
W 15 Selections from Malory’s *Le Morte Darthur*
F 17 Selections from Malory’s *Le Morte Darthur*
- Week 14 M 20 Selections from Malory’s *Le Morte Darthur*
W 22 Selections from Malory’s *Le Morte Darthur*
F 24 Selections from Malory’s *Le Morte Darthur*
- Week 15 M 27 Selections from Malory’s *Le Morte Darthur*
W 29 Malory. Arthur’s Dream, Final Battle and Death in *The Romance of Arthur*
- May F 1 Selection from Tolkien’s *The Fall of Arthur*
- Week 16 M 4 “The Passing of Arthur” in *Idylls of the King*
W 6 “The Passing of Arthur” in *Idylls of the King*
F 8 “The Passing of Arthur” in *Idylls of the King*
- Week 17 **Exam Week**
W Section 97 at 10:00.
W Section 96 1:00.