

ENGL 2018.03 (Fall)

Arthur

Dr. I. Djordjevic
TR 9:00-10:00

Description:

In this course we shall trace the development of the Arthurian myth in the literature of the High and Late Middle Ages in Europe, from Geoffrey of Monmouth's *History of the Kings of Britain* (c. 1136) to Sir Thomas Malory's *Le Morte Darthur* (c. 1470). As we read –in modern English translation or, in the case of Malory, easily accessible late Middle English – some of the best Arthurian works written in medieval Britain and France, we shall pay special attention to the way different authors have varied Arthurian narratives inherited from their predecessors, gradually transforming key characters, events, themes and motifs in the process. And as we connect the Arthurian texts with the historical contexts in which they were written, we shall also follow the two main lines of development of the Arthurian material, the pseudo-historical and the romantic, and analyze their fruitful interaction.

Tentative Book List:

Geoffrey of Monmouth, *The History of the Kings of Britain*, trans. Lewis Thorpe (Penguin). ISBN 0-140-44170-0.

The Complete Romances of Chrétien de Troyes, trans. David Staines (Indiana UP). ISBN 0-253-20787-8.

Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, Patience, Pearl, trans. Marie Borroff (Norton). ISBN 0-393-97658-0.

Sir Thomas Malory, *Le Morte Darthur*, ed. Helen Cooper (Oxford). ISBN 0-192-82420-1.