

TERM: Spring 2025

COURSE NUMBER & CATEGORY: ENGL 2300: History of Lit, Media, and Culture

COURSE TITLE: Arthur Then and Now

SECTION TIMES/DAYS: MW 8:00 AM - :40 AM

INSTRUCTOR: Aimee Ross-Kilroy

COURSE DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPAL TOPICS:

Arthurian legend has long held a fascination for readers and writers since its initial formulation, and currently enjoys an enduring global reach. As a History of Literature, Media and Culture course, this class will examine the overlap between literature and history by first examining the origins of Arthurian stories and their use in creating medieval propaganda, then examine moments up to the present day when aspects of the Arthurian mythos have been used in various forms of media as a means to affect cultures globally.

Our examination will be informed by the following questions:

What constitutes Arthurianism, and why does it endure?

How can understanding Arthurianism help us to better understand concepts like literary history, periodization, intertextuality and mythopoesis?

How has the enduring Arthurian mythos been deployed at various moments in history as a form of propaganda and/or nation building?

Finally, what is the value of the past in the present and how do we construct this relationship through narrative?

STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students will recognize interpretative practices and how they are historically determined by looking at Arthurianism at various points in history, from the warlord representations in Anglo-Saxon texts up to and including recent adaptations in Manga and Anime.

- Students will recognize how literature, media, and culture produces, maintains, questions, and transforms society by looking specifically at the various moments that Arthurian texts have been called on to reinforce English notions of sovereignty, and compare and contrast them to their use by non-English writers and creators as a means to deconstruct English colonial ideals.
- Students will explore the historically specific character of the literature, media, and culture covered in the course by, again, learning about the contexts surrounding each significant “eruption” of mass interest in the Arthurian mythos.

- Students will understand how the literature, culture, and media in any given period draws on and modifies its literary, media, and cultural antecedents via their ongoing consideration of the growth and change that occurs over time in this genre of texts.

CLASS LEVEL RESTRICTION:

Select Class Level Below

RECOMMENDED/PREREQUISITES:

Select Recommended/Prerequisite Below

COURSE ATTRIBUTES:

OLD CURRICULUM

- GENRES (LD)
- HISTORIES (LD)
- AUTHORS (UD)
- CRITICAL/THEORETICAL (UD)
- COMPARATIVE (UD)
- CREATIVE/ARTISTRY

CORE ATTRIBUTES:

N/A

NEW CURRICULUM

- DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH (LD)
- HISTORY OF LIT, MEDIA, AND CULTURE (LD)
- READING AND WRITING GENRES (LD)
- THEORY, POWER, AND RHETORIC (LD)
- PRE-1800 (UD)
- CREATIVE ARTISTRY (UD)
- RACE, INTERSECTIONALITY, AND POWER (UD)
- UPPER-DIVISION ELECTIVE (UD)
- 5000-LEVEL SEMINAR (UD)