

Department: Modern and Classical Languages

Course No: 230

Credits: 3

Title: Myths and Legends of the Middle Ages

Contact: Roger Travis

ContentArea: CA1-Arts and Humanities

Catalog Copy: FREN 230. The Middle Ages: Myths and Legends Either semester. Three credits.

Recommended preparation: FREN 261 or 262 or instructor consent.

Founding myths and legends of Occidental culture, including a socio-cultural approach. Strong audiovisual component.

Course Information: A. Description. This course will explore some of the founding legends which develop during the Middle Ages, having to do with well known characters like Charlemagne, King Arthur, Tristan and Yseut, etc... Based on modern French translations of the old epics of the 12th and 13th centuries, the course, shows how these medieval texts go deep into mythic ways of thinking, and how the Celtic imaginary world gets connected to the new Christian way of thinking. Using modern theory on myths (Eliade, Durand, Campbell), it follows the evolution of some motives from one culture to another (e.g. the (Holy) Grail from Celtic paganism to orthodox Christianity) . It includes a number of films. B Course requirements : Short weekly research assignments; one mid-term and one final examination ; one long term-paper; one oral presentation. In general, students are expected not only to understand the major ideas developed through the texts, but to also respond to them critically and comparatively. C. Major themes, issues, topics, etc., to be covered. Introduction: la spificiti littiraire du Moyen Age La $\text{\textcircled{M}}$ atihre de France $\text{\textcircled{M}}$ Les Trois Cycles de la Chanson de Geste Guillaume d $\text{\textcircled{O}}$ Orange Le Charroi de Nnmes La Prise d $\text{\textcircled{O}}$ Orange Aliscans Moniage Guillaume et Moniage Rainouart Romans antiques et Contes de Bretagne La $\text{\textcircled{M}}$ atihre Antique $\text{\textcircled{M}}$: Eneas La Ligende de Tristan et Yseut: Biroul - Thomas d $\text{\textcircled{A}}$ ngleterre et les Folies Marie de France: Lai de Chhvrefeuille Le Roi Arthur et la Table Ronde La ligende arthurienne Marie de France: Lanval Wace, le Roman de Brut Chretien de Troyes Le Cycle du Lancelot-Graal Merlin, Lancelot, La mort le roi Artu

Meets Goals of Gen Ed: The course exposes students to unfamiliar traditions and requires them to learn how to think critically, outside the well-known boundaries of their own culture.. In addition, students are asked to familiarize themselves with the rhetoric of a text: how the author uses language, motives and characters within the text to further his specific agenda. Beyond emotional engagement with a literary text, students are taught how this kind of text is constructed and how it functions. The objective is to develop their critical faculty and give them the rhetorical tools to do this. Further, in class discussions and in written assignments, students are encouraged to articulate what they have learned in thought out and substantiated responses.

CA1 Criteria: The wide range of texts studied and discussed are essential for an understanding of the cultural as well as literary background that created modern France. In addition, the frequent use of films offering

> contemporary readings of old, apparently "different" texts allows the students to come to grips with the notion of cultural alterity and to acquire a broader sense of historical development.