Spring 2018 Course Descriptions

Instructor: Robert Boenig
Course: ENGL 330.500
Title: Arthurian Literature

Description: The objective of this course is to explore the Arthurian literature of the Middle Ages and beyond. The narratives about King Arthur crossed national and cultural boundaries, and no one author can be considered the sole creator of the Arthur narrative. Usually we think of authors as creators and stories as their creation, but, typical of medieval culture, more than one writer brought this large story into being. We will therefore do a historical and cultural reading of the Arthur story to explore the relationship of the authors who wrote the actual texts and the society that called the story into being.

Proposed Readings:
Geoffrey of Monmouth, History of the Kings of Britain (selections)
Chretien de Troyes, The Knight of the Cart
Anonymous, Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
Thomas Malory, Le Morte Darthur (selections)
Alfred Lord Tennyson, Idylls of the King
J. R. R. Tolkien, The Fall of Arthur
T. H. White, The Sword in the Stone
C. S. Lewis, That Hideous Strength