Spring 2020 Course Description

Instructor: Katayoun Torabi
Course: ENGL 330
Title: Arthurian Literature

Description: Introduction to the legend of King Arthur and Arthurian literature from the Middle Ages to the present. Students will be asked to consider how narratives about Arthur have shifted over time and how these stories both reflect and shape beliefs and anxieties about the social and historical moments in which they were created. Students will read versions of the legend written in English, French, Latin, and Welsh from the sixth century on, including works by Marie de France, Chrétien de Troyes, the Gawain-poet, Sir Thomas Malory, and Alfred Lord Tennyson. The class will also examine modern adaptations and appropriations of the King Arthur legend in film, television, music, art, games, and in online formats. All texts for the course will be in translation except for those written in Middle English. Class activities will include lecture, discussion, and group work.

Proposed Readings: