

Introduction to the Arthurian Legend

(block course at the Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague), room 342, Celetná 20

This course will study the evolution of the Arthurian legend from its origins in 6th-century Britain to its development in the 12th-century romances of Chrétien de Troyes, the 13th-century Lancelot-Grail cycle and up to late medieval Czech re-workings. The course will look at the way the various developments of the legend were rooted in specific historical circumstances and yet contributed to the elaboration of a rich and complex narrative that has been appropriated in different ways by each succeeding period of Western European culture. All texts will be analyzed in modern English translations (although the originals will also be made available to anyone interested).

It is a block course – it will be taught in three intensive days. The readings will be available from the beginning of the semester and it is advisable to read everything beforehand. The teaching will be done by Prof. Jeff Rider (French and Romance Studies, Wesleyan University, USA), Lucie Doležalová (Medieval Latin Studies, Prague) Matouš Jaluška (Comparative Literature, Prague), Helena Znojemská (English Literature, Prague) and Martin Šorm (History, Prague).

Requirements: Active participation in class (maximum 3 absences), final test.

3 credits, IS code: ALMV00082, further information: Lucie Doležalová lucie.dolezalova@ff.cuni.cz



24.3.

- 9:10-10:40 LD+JR: Introduction (early brief texts)
- 10:50-12:20 LD+JR: Bérout, Tristan and Isolde ; Marie de France, Chevreffeulle
- 14:10-15:40 LD+JR: Wace, Le Roman de Brut
- 15:50-17:20 MŠ: Chrétien de Troyes, Erec and Enide

25.3.

- 9:10-10:40 JR: Ulrich von Zatzikhoven, Lanzelet
- 10:50-12:20 JR: André le Chapelain, The Art of Courtly Love; Ch. de Troyes, The Knight of the Cart
- 13:20-14:50 JR: Chrétien de Troyes, The Knight of the Cart
- 15:00-16:30 JR: Chrétien de Troyes, The Story of the Grail

31.3.

- 9:10-10:40 JR: Chrétien de Troyes, The Story of the Grail
- 10:50-12:20 HZ: Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
- 14:10-15:40 MJ: Galican Lais de Bretanha
- 15:50-17:20 MJ: Czech Tristram and Izalda