

**JAMESTOWN COMMUNITY COLLEGE**  
**State University of New York**

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**INSTITUTIONAL COURSE SYLLABUS**

**Course Title:** The Romance of Arthur

**Course Abbreviation and Number:** ENG 2870

**Credit Hours:** 3

**Course Type:** Lecture

**Course Description:** Students will trace the historical and literary roots of the legend of King Arthur. Readings, films, and discussions center on the evolution of Arthur and notable features of his world: Avalon, Camelot, Merlin, Morgan Le Fay, Guinevere, Lancelot, Gawaine, and Mordred. In poems, chronicles, tales, and romances, major Arthurian images and themes will be examined, such as courtly love, chivalry, the sword of power, the Round Table, the Fisher King, and the Holy Grail. Among several works, the course examines the bardic traditions of the Brythonic Celt as well as the romance cycles of Chretien de Troyes and Sir Thomas Malory.

Prerequisite: ENG 1530.

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**Student Learning Outcomes:**

Students who demonstrate understanding can:

1. Read and interpret various works of Arthurian literature.
  2. Outline the development of the Arthurian legend.
  3. Discuss the differences between the Early Medieval reality of the legend and its Mid and Late Medieval fulfillment.
  4. Explain various non-literary renditions of the legend in films, art, and music.
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**Topics Covered:**

- History of Celtic and Roman Britain
  - Historical and Fictitious Roots of the Arthurian Legend
  - Latin Chroniclers: Nennius, Bede, Geoffrey of Mornmouth, etc.
  - Welsh Arthurian Legends: the Mabinogian, etc.
  - French Romances: Wace to Chretien de Troyes
  - Role of Caxton in the Development of the legend
  - Chivalry, Arms and Armor, Heraldry
  - Differing and conflicting versions of the legend
  - Holy Grail quest
  - Courtly Love
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**Information for Students**

- Expectations of Students
  - [Civility Statement](#)
  - [Student Responsibility Statement](#)
  - [Academic Integrity Statement](#)
- [Accessibility Services](#)  
Students who require accommodations to complete the requirements and expectations of this course because of a disability must make their accommodation requests to the Accessibility Services Coordinator.
- [Get Help: JCC & Community Resources](#)
- [Emergency Closing Procedures](#)
- Course grade is determined by the instructor based on a combination of factors, including but not limited to, homework, quizzes, exams, projects, and participation. Final course grade can be translated into a grade point value according to the following:

A=4.0	B+=3.5	B=3	C+=2.5	C=2	D+=1.5	D=1	F=0
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- Veterans and active duty military personnel with special circumstances (e.g., upcoming deployments, drill requirements, VA appointments) are welcome and encouraged to communicate these to the instructor.
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**Effective Date:** Fall 2021