

Term Paper

Content: Write a concise, detailed, and insightful 8-10-page essay (plus a works cited page) on one of the following topics:

1. Pick an Arthurian character and analyze his or her development in two or more texts (i.e., Merlin, Gawain, Lancelot, Bors, Percival, Morgan, Guinevere, Isolde, etc.).
2. Choose an Arthurian theme and examine its exemplification in two or more texts (hospitality, largesse, honor, gifted bastardy, etc.).
3. Discuss the roles of a particular Arthurian group of people in two of more texts (i.e., servants, dwarves, queens, squires, giants, knights, etc.).
4. Use a modern piece of literature, movie, etc. and compare it to the medieval origins. Please no overlap with oral presentations.
5. A topic of your choice to be cleared with me first.

You should develop a careful analysis that is well supported with evidence from the primary work(s) demonstrating. Be aware, however, that a paper that comprises long quotes strung together without analysis will not pass. Equally, a paper that merely paraphrases the story lines of the primary works does not satisfy analysis requirements either. For this assignment, you may use primary and secondary sources. If you use secondary sources, you should consult the *MLA* online Bibliography first. Furthermore, we now own *Arthuriana*, the premier Arthurian journal.

Format: Please follow the guidelines outlined in the *Guide to Style* containing the format guidelines of the *MLA*, plus instructions on writing papers, sample introductory paragraphs with developed theses, frequent errors in critical writing, and a list of tools for the literature student (on website). Review documentation procedures and follow the distinctions outlined for citing prose or poetry as well as shorter and longer quotations. Failure to provide the correct format will result in lower grades. An explanation of grade rubrics can be found on the class website. Sample papers will be available soon, and I will be emailing you the id and password for access.

Structure: I would like to reiterate that you are writing a **formal** paper, both in content and in style. Thus, your paper needs an introduction providing a context and a precisely phrased thesis at the end of the first paragraph (see especially #2-3 in *Guide to Style*). I encourage you to edit, revise, and proofread your papers, striving for coherence, grammatical correctness, and good transitions. First drafts rarely hold up to critical scrutiny.

Evaluation: On my website, you will find a link to the grading sheet I use to evaluate your essay. The numbers on it refer to the *Guide to Style*. I suggest you look at it. **Note:** The following sections in the *Guide to Style* might be *especially* helpful for this assignment: **1-10, 13, 17, 26, 28-33, 43-60, 72-73, 78, 81, 95-96**. I am available to discuss ideas, outlines, and drafts of your paper in person or via email. **Your topic needs to be confirmed with me via email or hardcopy by 4.22.2008.**

Due Date: Th 5.8.2008 in my mailbox in HUM 217 or under my office door HUM 321.