

## 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.

You may also use scholarly secondary sources. If you do, consult the *MLA* online Bibliography first. Furthermore, we now own *Arthuriana*, the premier Arthurian journal. You should draw on **a minimum of 5 scholarly sources** to support your thesis; this means you might actually have to look at 10 to find 5 useful ones. Only one of those sources should be an online source, such as a respectable website. In case of doubt, run the source by me first. Full-text databases are NOT considered online sources, as they usually only make regular scholarly journal articles available online. You should consult scholarly books and journals. Start with the *International MLA Bibliography* (NOT the Index of Periodicals) in and/or the *International Medieval Bibliography* in the UNM database system. Links to those and others are on the class webpage. After you identify potential books and articles in these databases, you need to check if they might be available through one of the online full-text resources or in the stacks in the form of essay collections. If not, you can order them through Interlibrary Loan (ILL): <https://illiad.unm.edu/illiad/ill/logon.html>. Articles come through in a few days as pdf files, but you clearly must plan ahead. You should also search **Libros** for books on your topic, and you might try **WorldCat** in the database section. It lists all books published, while Libros only contains what UNM has.

**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.

**Due Date:** Email paper proposal to me by **T 4.17.2012**; email final paper as attachment in MS Word by **R 4.26.2012**.