

EN242 Arthurian Literature and its Legacy
Assessed Essay Questions (spring) 2016-17

Please submit a **5000 word essay** in answer to one the following questions, by **12 noon, Tuesday 2nd May 2017** (week 2, term 3).

1. Discuss the relevance of notions of ‘Nostalgia’ and/or ‘Fantasy’ for the analysis of at least two authors engaged in modern rewritings of medieval *arthuriana*. One of these can be an author (or artist, filmmaker, or other form of media, etc.) not studied during the course (but doesn’t have to be...).
2. Discuss the representation of warfare and/or violence in at least two authors studied this term.
3. Analyse the treatment of emotion in at least two authors studied this term. You may want to focus on specific emotions (fear; anger; pity; etc.), or on specific aspects of the emotional experience (emotion as passion; the irrational nature of emotion; emotional medievalism; the aesthetic of emotion etc.).
4. How does Arthurian literature engage with contemporary developments (historical, political, cultural, intellectual)? Discuss with reference to one or more authors studied this term.
5. Discuss Malory’s treatment of one of the following themes: love and adultery; the role of the written and spoken word; enchantment; ideas of treason; bonds and communities in the *Morte Darthur*; penance and religion. You may want to include comparisons with some of Malory’s sources, especially from the Vulgate cycle.
6. Examine the portrayal of marriage and/or adultery in one or more texts studied this term.
7. Discuss the use of the narrator (and or, if relevant, the author...) in one or more texts studied this term: how do these narrators make their presence felt, and what effects are thereby achieved?
8. To what extent, and in what ways, does Arthurian literature seek to critique or subvert the legend of Arthur and his court? Discuss with reference to one or more texts studied this term.
9. Discuss the function of comedy, irony, or satire in one or more texts studied this term.
10. Analyse and compare the representation of nature and the natural world in at least two texts studied this term.
11. Discuss the treatment of religious faith in one or more texts studied this term.
12. Devise your own question and choice of materials in consultation with your tutor. Your topic must be approved by 5 p.m. on Friday 17th March, 2017.