

FMS 120-01

Arthurian Knight Research Dossier Assignment

M. Ridley Elmes

Assignment At-A-Glance: Students will compile a research dossier on the Arthurian knight of their choice over the course of the term. The dossier should include at least 8-10 sources, which must comprise both scholarly and popular works and be interdisciplinary and multimedia in nature. Possible sources include but are not limited to literary and scholarly texts, artworks such as text illustrations, paintings, drawings, etchings, sculpture, architectural sculpture/decoration, films/film clips, television shows/television show clips, comics, memes, performance works such as drama, opera, or ballet, and music. Students will share their findings in a 6-8 minute oral presentation with a visual component at the end of the term.

Instructions: Over the course of the term, using library and internet resources, you will search for and compile a variety of sources for the knight you have chosen. For each, you will create an annotated bibliographic entry that tells what the item is and why it matters to you. For example, let's say you chose Guinevere and you found an image of her on the Internet that you want to use. You would document it as follows:

Harrison, Florence. "It Was Their Last Hour." 2014. Florence Henderson Art. *Artsy Craftsy*. Drawing on rag paper. 28 August 2014.

This drawing presents a scene of Lancelot kissing Guinevere in a Church setting, illustrating their clandestine love affair. It's important because it shows a traditional representation of the illicit affair between them, done by a modern artist. The Church setting offers a variety of interpretations: they are being judged by God, or they are being protected by God, or the artist thought it was a good Gothic medieval setting, or it is the safest place they could think of, for instance. Guinevere is the main focal point and the artist makes it clear that she trusts and loves Lancelot through her body language. The title of this drawing suggests that the scene takes place shortly before they are discovered. The scene does not appear in the texts we read for class, which suggests the artist took artistic license with the story rather than following it exactly.

Or, let's say you read a poem you want to include in your Guinevere dossier. It might go as follows:

Munda. "My Love, Lancelot." *Netpoems.com*. Web. 28 August 2014.

This sonnet is presented as a love letter from Guinevere to Lancelot. In it the poet makes use of several images to highlight Guinevere's feelings: she likens Lancelot's touch upon her skin to "Angel's wings" (3) and calls his love a "guiding light, the brightest star" (2). In the final few lines she says that without him she is like Neptune out of the sea. The poem is important because it provides a personal view of the relationship from

Guinevere's point of view. This didn't happen in medieval texts, which shows that modern readers are more interested in the characters' feelings. In the medieval tradition, the focus is on how Guinevere's and Lancelot's affair brought about the fall of Camelot.

Then, based on this annotated bibliography you have compiled, you will come up with a line of argument about who this figure is, how s/he has changed from the medieval era to now (if applicable) and why s/he is important. Using the resources you've chosen, you will fashion a 6-8 minute presentation of the character to be delivered to the class at the end of the term.

Grading. The grade for this assignment is broken down as follows:

Annotated Bibliography/ Research Dossier: 8-10 sources, correctly cited according to MLA formatting guidelines, and including both scholarly and popular resources and at least 4 different mediums. For each, a short paragraph explaining what it is and why it is important to a study of your figure should be included.

8-10 sources included: 20%
Correct MLA formatting: 20%
At least 4 different mediums: 20%
Explanatory paragraph: 20%

Oral Presentation: 6-8 minute delivery, focusing on your research process and culminating in a central line of argument: who is this character? How does s/he feature within the overall Arthurian legend? How does s/he change or evolve (if applicable?) or what else is particularly important about him or her? Include at least 2 multimodal elements to this presentation (Powerpoint; Prezi; images, video(s), artwork, & *etc.*)

Delivery (presentation style; confidence; substance): 10%
Multimodal component: 10%

Assignment total: 100%; 10% of final grade in the class.

Some things to consider as you put together your oral presentation (organizing principles/ things you might want to cover during your talk):

1. The research process you used—what websites, books, journals, databases, and other resources did you make use of? What was particularly helpful? Did you speak with a Jackson Library research librarian? If so, what research strategies and tools did s/he recommend, and how helpful were they?
2. What surprised/interested you the most during your researching process?
3. What challenges or problems did you run across in researching your knight, and how did you resolve them?
4. Trace your character through the documents you have amassed, and make a claim about his or her role in the overall legend, as outlined above.

Arthurian Knights

Choose a knight for whom you will compile a research dossier over the course of the term and develop an oral presentation according to the assignment sheet provided. Only two students may work on any single knight, to avoid too much overlap. Keep in mind that you may not have heard of some of these knights yet, but that doesn't mean they aren't equally as interesting as their better-known counterparts!

Knight	Student One	Student Two
Sir Lancelot	_____	_____
Sir Gawain	_____	_____
Sir Kay	_____	_____
Sir Perceval	_____	_____
Sir Yvain	_____	_____
Sir Bedivere	_____	_____
Sir Palomides	_____	_____
Sir Tristan	_____	_____
Sir Agravain	_____	_____
Sir Mordred	_____	_____
Sir Gareth	_____	_____
Sir Gaheris	_____	_____
Sir Balan	_____	_____
Sir Balin	_____	_____
Sir Bors	_____	_____
Sir Galahad	_____	_____
Sir Erec	_____	_____
Sir Geraint	_____	_____

Knight

Student One

Student Two

Sir Lamorak

Sir Morholt

Sir Pelleas

Sir Pellinore

Sir Sagramore

Sir Silence

Sir Raymond

Sir Geoffrey Big-Tooth

Sir Urian

Sir Guyon
