

FMS 120-01

Arthurian Create-A-Knight Assignment Sheet

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From the syllabus:

Creative Writing: Constructing a Chivalric Identity: 10% of your final grade. *As you read and reflect on the knightly figures in the texts assigned in the course, you will begin drafting lists and generating narratives concerning your own chivalric identity—your strengths and weaknesses, your abilities, your motives, and your goals for yourself. Over the course of the term, you will use this material to create your own knightly persona and add yourself into the Arthurian tradition. You will write a brief encyclopedic description of your moniker and deeds, and include an image of your heraldic device; write a short comparison of how you stack up against the other Knights of the Round Table, and craft a short poem about one of your adventures and a short story about one of your tests. Refer to assignment sheet for further instructions. (SLO 1 & 4; WI 1 & 2)*

Assignment components:

1. Encyclopedic entry (approximately 300-500 words): This should include the “factual” information about your character—your name, moniker (Knight of the...), where you are from, lineage, and major chivalric or courteous deeds.
2. Heraldic device: an image of your shield design, with a brief explanation of what each element stands for.
3. Comparison (500-1000 words): write a brief comparative essay explaining how you stack up against at least three of the already-established knights in the Arthurian legend. Try to use specific details about those knights garnered from your reading to contextualize your place in the legend in comparison to theirs.
4. Brief poem (no more than 4 pages): this may be in any of the poetic forms associated with the Arthurian legend—a *lai*, a metrical romance, a blank verse narrative, or a lyric poem. Focus either on an adventure or on your relationship with another figure in the canon (either romantic or friendship in nature).
5. Short story (1-3 pages long): should focus on one or two of your particular adventures or tests of your knightly prowess, and include recognizably Arthurian characteristics.

Grading: Based on effort, how well you demonstrate your understanding of the Arthurian legend through each assignment, and basic neatness and creativity; broken down as follows

Encyclopedic entry: 20%

Heraldic device: 20%

Comparative essay: 20%

Brief poem: 20%

Short story: 20%

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

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Assignment Sheet
Original Arthurian Knight Tale

For this assignment, students will develop an original short fiction tale to add to the Arthurian legend. The tale should center around one or more of the student's own Arthurian persona's adventures.

The successful tale will be readily identifiable as an Arthurian story by including one or more narrative elements generally associated with the Arthurian legend. Such narrative elements might include, but are not limited to: being set in Camelot or Caerleon; taking place on Pentecost, Whitsuntide, or some other High Holy Day, featuring one or more of the known knights of the Round Table, including Arthur and/or Guinevere in the action, mentioning another knight's adventures, or featuring magical objects such as swords, rings, shields, mantles, or similar.

In addition to being readily identifiable as an Arthurian story, the successful assignment will be between ½ and 2 pages in length, and will demonstrate evidence of attention to the compositional principles of organization and arrangement by presenting a clear and readily followed narrative line. The story may be written in the student's choice of narrative style—a summary of events, such as a Grimm's fairy tale might present the story; a brief narrative passage in either first or third person; as an episode inserted into a longer tale or one of the works we have read in class; or as a lai or other poetic form.

Students should also consider the tone and language of the story. Feel free to make use of common narrative stylistic techniques used by the authors we have read so far—Malory's interlacement of stories ("Now turn we unto...") and descriptions ("And he was a passing fair knight of goodly prowess"), or Marie's comparisons ("So beautiful was she that no women ever more beautiful had appeared at Arthur's court"), for example. Finally, please double-check for grammatical and spelling errors prior to turning this assignment in.

This story will comprise part of your personal Knightly Persona assignment. Please post the story to Blackboard by October 15, and please read through your peers' stories by class on October 21. Bring a hard copy of your story with you to class on October 21.