

Oakland University
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of English

**ENGLISH 5200 (crn 40873): INTRODUCTION TO GRADUATE
STUDIES (4)**

Fall 2018 265 South Foundation Hall R 6:00 – 9:20 p.m.

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Office: ODH 519
Office Hours: T and R, 4:45 to 5:45 p.m.
and by appointment.

TEXTS

1. Students will need to have a **complete** modern English translation of *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (**any translation is acceptable**).
2. Malory, Sir Thomas. *Le Morte D'Arthur*. Vol I. Penguin, 1970.
ISBN: 9780140430431
3. Malory, Sir Thomas. *Le Morte D'Arthur*. Vol. II. Penguin, 1970.
ISBN: 9780140430448
4. *MLA Handbook*, The Modern Language Association of America, 8th ed., 2016.
ISBN-13: 978-1603292627

Note: this is a new edition of the *MLA Handbook*, published in 2016; make sure you have this edition.

Students are **also recommended** to own a good glossary of literary terms, such as:
The Bedford Glossary of Critical and Literary Terms; Ross Murfin
and Supryia Ray; 3rd ed.; Bedford/ St. Martin's, 2008. ISBN-13:
978-0312461881

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The primary objective of the course is to familiarize students with the basic methods of literary study and research at the graduate level. The course serves also to familiarize students with the evolution of literary studies as a discipline and as a profession. Skills to be emphasized include:

- Interpreting a literary work according to its formal features
- Locating, summarizing, evaluating, and citing scholarly sources
- Identifying major critical approaches and methodologies for the study of literature
- Entering the critical conversation on literary works, theories, and movements
- Writing a preliminary abstract, annotated bibliography, and research paper.¹

FORMAT

Literature is public and social, not private and personal. What is literature without a shared response to it? ("Shared," here may, but need not, mean "held in common"; it does mean, however, "articulated publically.") Therefore, of course, classes will consist primarily of discussion. Needless to say, but nevertheless said, reading assignments must be done on time and with care. Students should arrive in class ready to ask and answer questions on their reading.

ATTENDANCE

Flowing logically from the previous paragraph: Regular attendance (which includes arriving and departing on time) is expected, anticipated, and indeed required. **Be sure to turn off or set to silent all cell phones and pagers while class is in session.**

More than two absences (an unlikely occurrence of severe misfortune or spectacular negligence) may result in a no-credit for the course.

NOTE ON ACADEMIC CONDUCT: We all derive information from other sources: instructors, fellow students, books, websites, etc. As an ancient expression puts it, we are dwarves standing on the shoulders of giants; we see farther than they, but only because they have lifted us up. Honesty requires us, of course, to acknowledge the work and thought of others that has contributed to our own work (i.e., always respect the giants). The basic principles of such acknowledgement are expressed in the Oakland University statement on "Academic Conduct Regulations," which is available on the Dean of Students web page.

<https://wwwp.oakland.edu/deanofstudents/policies/>

Be sure to familiarize yourself with this policy. Understand that any suspected act of plagiarism on an assignment for this class will be turned over to the Academic Conduct Committee and, if determined to be plagiarism will result in a no credit for the course in addition to any sanctions mandated by the Academic Conduct Committee.

SUPPORT SERVICES

If you have any personal condition that may interfere with your ability to complete the requirements for this course, you should contact the **Office of Disability and Support Services**:

<https://wwwp.oakland.edu/dss/>

121 North Foundation Hall

248-370-3266

email: dss@oakland.edu

Veteran Support Services provides a wide range of support and advice to OU students who are veterans, service members, or dependents of veterans:

<https://wwwp.oakland.edu/veterans/>

116 North Foundation Hall

248-370-2010

email: vss@oakland.edu

The Gender and Sexuality Center serves the OU community, particularly women and LGBTIQA communittes, by fostering an atmosphere of inclusion and understanding around issues of sexuality and gender.

<https://wwwp.oakland.edu/csa/gsc/>

49D Oakland Center

248-370-4333

email: gsc@oakland.edu

GRADED ASSIGNMENTS

Important Note: The following assignments and grade proportions, as well as the class schedule and assigned readings, may be changed (with advance notice) by the instructor during the semester.

Class participation	15% of the final grade
Close Reading Paper (4-5 pages)	15% of the final grade
Article Abstract	10% of the final grade
Annotated Bibliography	10% of the final grade
Research Presentation	15% of the final grade
Final Abstract	10% of the final grade
Final Paper (10-12 pages)	25% of the final grade

NOTE: All assignments must be completed in order to receive credit for the class.

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

This schedule may be modified, even significantly, but always with advance notice. Further readings will be added as the semester proceeds, but it is also possible that some readings will be removed or reduced. This schedule should give you, then, a good idea of the overall workload for the course.

If a class session is cancelled for any reason, keep reading according to the schedule. Students are, of course, responsible for material missed through absence.

Always refer to the course Moodle site and your OU emails for updates or changes.

- Sept. 6 Introduction to the course
- Sept. 13 *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
Reading, Close Reading, and Interpreting
Short Close Reading Exercise Due (ungraded)
- Sept. 20 **Library Resources Introduction**
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
Critical Perspectives Readings: (Moodle site)
Close Reading Paper Due
- Sept. 27 *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*
Critical Perspectives Readings 2: (Moodle site)
Article Summary Due (ungraded)
- Oct. 4 Sir Thomas Malory, *LeMorte DArthur*:
Caxton's Preface and Bk. I – Uther and Arthur
Bk. II – Sir Balin
Article Abstract Due
- Oct. 11 *LMDA*: Bk. III – The Wedding of Arthur and Guinevere
Bk. IV, Ch. 1—The End of Merlin
Graff, *Professing Literature*, "Preface: Twenty Years Later"
Chapter 1, "Introduction: The Humanist Myth"
Semenza, *Graduate Study for the 21st Century*, "Afterword"
- Oct. 18 *LMDA*: Bk. VI – Sir Launcelot
- Oct. 25 *LMDA*: Bk. VII – Sir Gareth

- Nov. 1 *LMDA*: Bk. IX, Chapters 1-15 – Sir La Cote Male Tayle and Sir Tristram
Preliminary Paper Abstract Due (ungraded)
- Nov. 8 *LMDA*: Bks. XIII-XV -- The Quest for the Holy Grail
- Nov. 15 *LMDA*: Bks. XVI-XVII – The Quest for the Holy Grail
Annotated Bibliography Due
- Nov. 22 No Class--Thanksgiving
- Nov. 29 *LMDA*: Bks. XVIII-XIX – Sir Launcelot (and Queen Guinevere)
Papers-in-Progress Presentations
- Dec. 6 *LMDA*: Bks. XX-XXI – The Death of Arthur
Final Paper with Abstract Due

¹ I would like to thank Professor Kevin Laam for allowing me to use, slightly edited, his "Course Description" for ENG 520.