# English 300: MERLIN  
**Fall 1997: Syllabus**  
Sarah M. Anderson

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<tr>
<th>McCosh 40</th>
<th>Week I</th>
<th>Sept. 15</th>
<th>Orientation: an introduction to &quot;Arthurian&quot; Britain, selection from J. R. R. Tolkien (supplied); begin J. R. R. Tolkien's <em>The Hobbit</em></th>
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|           | Week II | Sept. 22 | Pseudo-history: Geoffrey of Monmouth's *Prophecies*, *History of the Kings of Britain*, and *Vita Merlin* (Goodrich, pp. 57-98)  
|           |        |          | ☉ Paper 1 due (2 pp.) |
|           | Week III | Sept. 29 | Geoffrey's antecedents, sources, and analogues: documentary evidence, hagiography*, Welsh poetry, and excerpts from Gildas*, Bede*, Nennius*, Wace*, Layamon*, William of Malmesbury*, and Gerald of Wales* (Goodrich, pp. 3-54)  
|           |        |          | ☉ Exercise on “first paragraphs” due |
|           | Week IV | Oct. 6   | Continental Romance: problems of chivalry and the Christian narrative in Robert de Boron and his continuators* (Goodrich, pp. 101-27); complete Tolkien's *Hobbit* and his "On Fairy-Stories"* for class discussion  
|           |        |          | ☉ Exercise on “first paragraphs” due |
|           | Week V | Oct. 13  | Excursus: art, artifact, and scholarly research (field trip to Firestone); begin Vinaver's *King Arthur and His Knights*  
|           |        |          | ☉ Last date for Paper 2 (5 pp) |
|           | Week VI | Oct. 20  | Return of a native: the English rhymed and prose romances *Of Arthour and of Merlin*, *Merlin*, and Henry Lovelich's *Merlin*; British folklore* (Goodrich, pp. 129-64); discuss Wace* and Layamon*  
|           |        |          | ☉ Paper 3 due by Oct. 25 (5 pp.) |
|           | Week VII | Oct. 27  | ☉ Fall Recess |
|           | Week VIII | Nov. 3  | Merlin synthesized: Sir Thomas Malory's *Le Morte Darthur* and the "hoole" Tradition (Goodrich, pp. 164-78) |

*Note: *Italicized terms indicate recommended reading or additional study materials.
Week IX  Nov. 10  The role of the book: Malory, William Caxton*, and a Winchester manuscript*; complete Vinaver’s King Arthur and His Knights

Merlin's cultural capital: Edmund Spenser's Faerie Queene, Thomas Heywood’s Life of Merlin, William Lilly’s England's Propheticall Merline*, and Jonathan Swift’s A Famous Prediction of Merlin* (Goodrich, pp. 181-217); begin Twain's Connecticut Yankee

Week XI  Nov. 24  Merlin revived: Romantic medievalism with Alfred, Lord Tennyson*, and his circle (Goodrich, pp. 221-46)

Week XII  Dec. 1  High modern Merlin: Mark Twain, T. H. White, C. S. Lewis, and J. R. R. Tolkien (Goodrich, pp. 277-417); complete Mark Twain's Connecticut Yankee

Week XIII  Dec. 8  Mass modern Merlin: comics, films, and a New Age

Required texts:

All texts are available at Micawber's. Selections in the syllabus marked with an (*) are available in the course packet, which can be printed through this course's Website (under construction) or copied. A master course packet will also be available in Reserve, where reference works and selected criticism may also be consulted.

Papers: You must turn in at least one rough draft of each paper you write along with the final paper. If you compose at the computer, simply print a copy that represents a significant version of the paper you are writing.

Office: McCosh 31; phone 258-4064
Office hours: Monday, 10 a.m.-12 noon; Tuesday, 9 a.m.-12 noon.; and by appointment.