HIST 445- The World of King Arthur and Robin Hood
(3 credit hours)
MW 9:30-10:45

Instructor: Craig M Nakashian
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Office Hours: MW 11-1

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Course description
This course examines the history of the British Isles through two of its most popular figures- King Arthur and Robin Hood. Students will study the settings for each figure- the early medieval period for the “historical” Arthur, the High medieval period of the “literary” Arthur, and the late medieval period for Robin Hood.

Texts
James Wilhelm, The Romance of Arthur- 978-0815315117
Vinaver, Malory: The Complete Works- 978-0192812179
Knight & Ohlgren, Robin Hood and Other Outlaw Tales- 978-1580440677
Chretien de Troyes, Arthurian Romance- 978-0140445213

Readings to be provided as handouts, pdf documents, or online links.

Student Learner Objectives:

1) Students will analyze primary and secondary materials regarding the political, social, and cultural development of the British Isles from the post-Roman period to the end of the fifteenth century.

2) Students will create and defend analytical arguments regarding the topics covered in the course using primary and secondary evidence.

3) Students will discuss analytically the topics covered in the course.

Assessment/Requirements

Each student will be expected to carry-out the following tasks:

1. Write analytical essays.
2. Write a final examination paper.
3. Participate in class activities.
Idea Sketches [20% of course grade; 4 points each; 20 points total]

At least once per week you will have the chance to submit a short (1-1½ page) paper analyzing materials to be discussed in class that day. You may continue submitting idea sketches until you reach twenty points.

Brief Analytical Essays [60% of course grade; 15 points each; 60 points total]

These essays should be at least five to six pages (5-6) pages, and they MUST conform to the writing guide provided. The topics are listed in the days that they are DUE. Remember that these are ANALYTICAL essays. I want original arguments and interpretations of the questions. A summary of the reading is NOT acceptable. I will grade four (4) of the essays listed, though you are welcome to submit more than four. If you do so, I will count your four best grades. The first essay is MANDATORY. These essays MUST be turned in on the day they are due, or before.

Final Paper [20% of course grade; 20 points]

This will be a take-home examination requiring you to discuss the primary themes covered in the course. We will discuss possible final examination questions towards the end of the course. I will expect the paper to be roughly ten (10) pages (2500-3000 words).

Class Participation [Bonus!]

Discussion is vitally important. I will award points on your final grade based on how often you participate, and how valuable that participation is. Students can earn up to five points on the final grade. Participate!!

Grading Scheme [100 points total]

My grading system is designed to put you in control of your final grade. For each assignment you complete you will accumulate points. The more points you accumulate, the higher your grade becomes. You can always tell how you are doing by comparing your point total to the scale below. The only way to lose points is by missing class.

A = 90 -100   B = 80 -89   C= 70 -79   D= 60-69   F= 59 and less

Attendance Policy

Students are expected to attend EVERY class period prepared to discuss applicable materials. You will be allowed TWO (2) unexcused absences over the course of the semester, and for every absence beyond TWO (2), I will deduct ONE (1) point from your FINAL GRADE.

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities may request reasonable accommodations through the A&M-Texarkana Disability Services Office by calling 903.223.3062.
Academic Honesty

Academic honesty is expected of students enrolled in this course. Cheating on examinations, unauthorized collaboration, falsification of research data, plagiarism, and undocumented use of materials from any source, constitute academic dishonesty, and may be grounds for a grade of "F" in the course and/or disciplinary actions. For additional information see the university policy manual.

Email Account

Upon application to Texas A&M University-Texarkana an individual will be assigned an A&M-Texarkana email account. This email account will be used to deliver official university correspondence. Each individual is responsible for information sent and received via the university email account and is expected to check the official A&M-Texarkana email account on a frequent and consistent basis. Faculty and students are required to utilize the university email account when communicating about coursework.

Drop Policy:

To drop this course after the census date (see semester calendar), a student must complete the Drop/Withdrawal Request Form, located on the University website http://tamut.edu/Registrar/droppingwithdrawing-from-classes.html or obtained in the Registrar’s Office. The student must submit the signed and completed form to the instructor of each course indicated on the form to be dropped for his/her signature. The signature is not an “approval” to drop, but rather confirmation that the student has discussed the drop/withdrawal with the faculty member. The form must be submitted to the Registrar’s office for processing in person, email Registrar@tamut.edu, mail (7101 University Ave., Texarkana, TX 75503) or fax (903-223-3140). Drop/withdraw forms missing any of the required information will not be accepted by the Registrar’s Office for processing. It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that the form is completed properly before submission. If a student stops participating in class (attending and submitting assignments) but does not complete and submit the drop/withdrawal form, a final grade based on work completed as outlined in the syllabus will be assigned.

Essay Grading:

For a guide to how I grade your analytical essays, please refer to http://www.tamut.edu/faculty%20web%20pages/craig-nakashian/essay-writing-tipsrubric.html

I REQUIRE that you familiarize yourself with those guidelines, as I will grade your essays with the assumption that you have done so.

Class Etiquette:

Students are expected to be respectful of the professor and their fellow students during any class activities. Therefore, the following rules of conduct shall be followed, or a student may be asked to leave the class:

1) Electronic devices may be utilized ONLY for taking notes, not for watching films, listening to music, surfing the internet, etc. If you want to do those sorts of activities, do them in the comfort of your own home.

2) Phones must be set to vibrate, or turned off completely, and cannot be used to make calls, send texts, etc, during class. Again, do those activities on your own time, not our time.
3) Students are not allowed to bring food into the class. It is a distraction to the professor and other students. Drinks, however, are acceptable.

4) Students will be respectful of one another and the instructor during all class discussions. Insults, ad hominem attacks, and purposely inflammatory statements will not be tolerated. If you are unsure what constitutes any of these, please ask me before spouting off.

**E-mail and Internet:** I am running this class under the assumption that each of you has a basic familiarity with browsing the web, access to a computer, and an e-mail account that you check reasonably often. Please see me immediately if this is not the case. I will collect all your e-mails in class, and then use group mailings to make announcements, circulate discussion questions in advance of class, etc. Please familiarize yourself with the course website: http: which will contain an online version of this syllabus as well as links to relevant websites and images shown during lectures. You should check it at least weekly for updates.

**Lateness Policy:** The assignments are due either on or before the date indicated on the syllabus. I do not accept late work.

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**How to do well in this course:** It’s a simple formula. Come to class, take good notes, do the readings. If you miss a lecture, get the notes from a friend. You will **not** do well in this course if you skip class or don’t bother to do the reading.