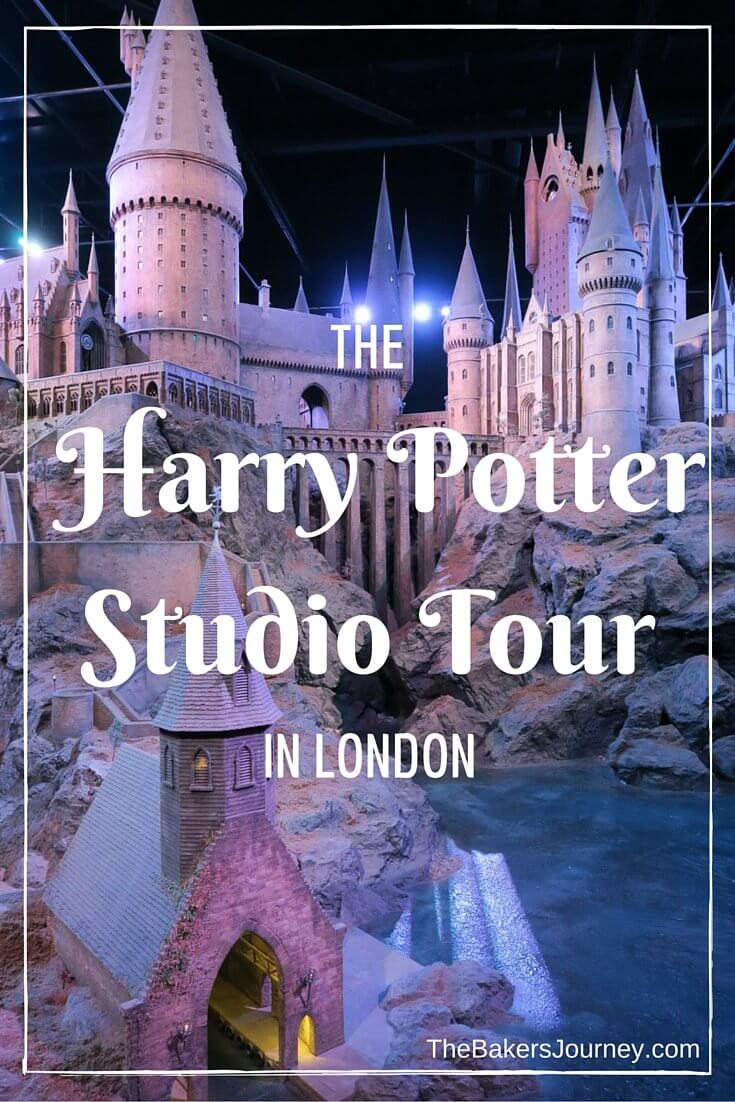
English 392/Theater 395:

Special Topics: Looking for King Arthur

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Wonder what Avalon is all about? Why the roundtable has such a mystical connotation? Interested in exploring some of the most important texts of the Middle Ages? This study abroad course is an exploration of texts and British sites related to King Arthur, including *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight*, Thomas Malory’s *Le Morte D’Arthur*, and Marion Zimmer Bradley’s influential feminist reading of Arthurian romance, *The Mists of Avalon*; in addition Arthur-on-stage and film will be examined in *Monty Python & the Holy Grail, Camelot, Spamalot, Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*. In addition to the reading, we will be visiting some of the historical sites connected to Arthur and Arthurian legend, including Winchester Cathedral, various sites in Glastonbury, Stonehenge, and Cardiff and Hay-on-Wye in Wales. We will begin at Harry Potter World in London in order to discuss the ways that contemporary literature has appropriated and adopted/adapted Arthur’s story. Course topics will include chivalry, courtly love, the historical Arthur, the quest, the Holy Grail, and the influences these important ideas have had throughout history, literary and otherwise.

**Texts** (all required):

*The Romance of Arthur*, ed. James J. Wilhelm (Garland)

Marion Zimmer Bradley, *The Mists of Avalon* (Ballantine)

*Monty Python & the Holy Grail*

*Camelot*

*Spamalot*

*Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*

*The Natural*

**Requirements**:

* + Three pre-trip meetings (in the Spring 2020 semester)
  + One Short Paper (5-6 pages; due first day in London) (20%)
  + One Longer Paper (15-20 pages; due July 31) (40%)
    - Students registered for the English course, write their paper on literature
    - Students registered for the Theater course, write their paper on drama
  + Digital Project: an online archive documenting your experience in England and Wales (20%)
  + Active Participation and attendance at all on-site events and excursions (20%)

**A Note on Participation:**

*Attitude* – As a student in an experiential course, your approach to class impacts not only your learning but also the learning environment and outcome for your fellow students. An open mind and full engagement with all course events is required. Tiredness, disinterest, unpreparedness, dislike, or personal issues within or outside of class will not constitute excuses for an indifferent or a poor attitude, particularly in the case of interactions with guests or off-site visits. A professional attitude towards activities and guests is essential to a successful outcome in class. Failure to project a professional attitude at least and an enthusiastic attitude at best will prove detrimental to your overall grade and may be grounds for dismissal from class.

*Decorum* – As a study abroad student, you are a representative of your professor, the program and its administrators, your university, and your country. In all class meetings (including group travel to and from events), proper behavior and attire are essential. Expectations for each individual event will be outlined verbally, and in detail, prior to each event. Students are expected to turn off cell phones/tablets/MP3 players in class and computers may be used for class work only. Respectful interactions with your instructor, class guests, and fellow students—in and outside of class, including housing facilities—are also essential to a successful outcome in class. Students are expected to refrain from excessive alcohol consumption before and during class meetings, including performances. Failure to adhere to these expectations will prove detrimental to your overall grade and may be grounds for dismissal from the class.

*Preparedness* – As a student in an experiential course, your punctuality and preparation impacts the learning environment and outcome for your fellow students. Timely arrival for all scheduled activities and compliance with assigned preparations (including being properly attired, being ably equipped to travel, and coming ready with food and/or money to procure food on outings) are essential for positive outcomes. Failure to adhere to announced expectations will prove detrimental to your overall grade and repeated infractions may be grounds for dismissal from the class.

**Disabilities:**

In order for a student to receive an accommodation for a disability, that disability must be on record in the Office of Student Affairs, 3rd Floor, David Student Union (DSU). If you believe that you have a disability, please contact Dr. Kevin Hughes, Vice President of Student Affairs (594-7160) to discuss your needs. Dr. Hughes will provide you with the necessary documentation to give to your professors.

Students with documented disabilities are to notify the instructor at least seven days prior to the point at which they require an accommodation (the first day of class is recommended), in private, if accommodation is needed. The instructor will provide students with disabilities with all reasonable accommodations, but students are not exempted from fulfilling the normal requirements of the course. Work completed before the student notifies the instructor of his/her disability may be counted toward the final grade at the sole discretion of the instructor.

**Success**:

We want you to succeed in this course and at Christopher Newport. We encourage you to come see me during office hours or to schedule an appointment to discuss course content or to answer questions you have. If we become concerned about your course performance, attendance, engagement, or well-being, we will speak with you first. We also may submit a referral through our Captains Care Program. The referral will be received by the Center for Academic Success as well as other departments when appropriate (Counseling Services, Office of Student Engagement). If you are an athlete, the Athletic Academic Support Coordinator will be notified. Someone will contact you to help determine what will help you succeed. Please remember that this is a means for us to support you and help foster your success at Christopher Newport.

**Academic Support**:

The Center for Academic Success offers free tutoring assistance for Christopher Newport students in several academic areas. Staff in the center offer individual assistance and/or workshops on various study strategies to help you perform your best in your courses. The center also houses the Alice F. Randall Writing Center. Writing consultants can help you at any stage of the writing process, from invention, to development of ideas, to polishing a final draft. The Center is not a proofreading service, but consultants can help you to recognize and find grammar and punctuation errors in your work as well as provide assistance with global tasks. Go as early in the writing process as you can, and go often!

You may visit the Center for Academic Success to request a tutor, meet with a writing consultant, pick up a schedule of workshops, or make an appointment to talk one-on-one with a University Fellow for Student Success. The Center is located in Christopher Newport Hall, first floor, room 123.

**Policy on Academic Honesty**

Academic dishonesty in any of its forms, including cheating, plagiarism, misuse of online media, and failure to comply with guidelines for the conduct of human research, will not be tolerated at CNU. A full statement of the policy on plagiarism, cheating and academic dishonesty is available in The CNU Student Handbook.

For guidance in proper referencing of sources, as well as how to avoid plagiarism, consult the most recent edition of:

* Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. New York: Modern Language Association, 2016 (eighth edition).

Papers must be written in proper MLA format. Plagiarism is the theft of someone else’s ideas and work. Whether a student copies verbatim or simply rephrases the ideas of another without properly acknowledging the source, the theft is the same. In the preparation of work submitted to meet course requirements, whether a draft or a final version of a paper, project, or computer program, students must take great care to distinguish their own ideas and language from information derived from sources. Sources include published primary and secondary materials, the Internet, and information and opinions gained directly from other people. Whenever ideas or facts are derived from a student’s reading and research, the sources must be properly cited.

It is the student’s responsibility to learn the proper forms of citation according to standards delineated by Christopher Newport University. Students who have questions about the standards of scholarly writing should speak with their instructors before beginning research on assigned papers and projects. Violations include, at the discretion of the instructor, failure for the individual paper to failure for the course; such violations may be entered in the student’s permanent academic record, and upon multiple offenses the Dean may recommend expulsion from the University.

**Statement on Physical Requirements**

This is a study abroad course conducted outside of the U.S., which means this course will be in a location where the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) does not apply. Faculty will make every effort to accommodate students with physical requirements. However, all students should be aware this program includes excursions requiring significant amounts of walking/hiking. None of the walking/hiking is strenuous per se. However, the various locations we will visit may be rocky and/or on uneven ground. Additionally, walks at historic sites may involve significant walking and stairs. Students desiring accommodations for these physical components should discuss the program with faculty prior to departure to ensure accommodations are possible.

**Grading Guidelines**

Education is about more than grades. Unfortunately, grades are a necessary evil. Your work will be graded on a scale from A to F with pluses and minuses. If, at the end of the semester, your grade is teetering between two grades, attendance and class participation become important factors. You must submit all required work to pass the course, and you must receive a passing grade on the longer paper to pass the course. All work is due on the announced date in-class, unless otherwise indicated. Papers handed in late receive a one-grade deduction for each day late; if deadlines weren’t important, they wouldn’t begin with “dead.”

*A range:* The work is extraordinary. It has said something different or is conceived in an interesting and unusual way. If written, the paper is virtually free of errors in writing or fact. Conventionally, an “A” means the work is perfect.

*B range:* The work is above average. It presents the material more than competently and, if written, is well-written and well-organized.

*C range:* The work is average. If written, it might have some problems in writing or conception. Organizational problems may also be present as may some misunderstandings of the texts or topics. Overall a grade of “C” indicates the work is competent but unremarkable.

*D range:* The work is below average. If written, it probably has serious problems in writing and organization. It might show severe misunderstandings of the texts or topics.

*F:* The work is failing. If written, it probably has severe problems in writing and shows little or no understanding of the texts or topics. Note: a grade of F is an earned grade and will not be awarded if work is not submitted or completed (that type of performance “earns” a 0).

**Course Readings**

The readings for the course are listed below. Every student is expected to have all reading completed by the end of the trip period.

**1. Who was Arthur? The Latin Chronicles and the Early Welsh Tradition**

Wilhelm, 3-23

**2. *Culhwch and Olwen***

Wilhelm 31-58

**3. Geoffrey of Monmouth: The Historical Arthur**

Wilhelm 63-93

**4. *Lancelot,* or *The Knight of the Cart***

Wilhelm 123-99

**5. *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* and *The Wedding of Sir Gawain and Dame Ragnell***

Wilhelm, 399-466

Wilhelm, 467-487

**6. Malory, *Le Morte Darthur***

Wilhelm, 542-552

**7. Arthurian Performance** (operas, theatre, musicals)

*Monty Python & the Holy Grail*

*Spamalot*

**8. Arthurian and Related Films**

*Camelot*

*Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court*

*The Natural*

**9. Marion Zimmer Bradley, *The Mists of Avalon***

Good idea to bring along on the trip and read during travel