

History 385r: Mythic Kings of the West
Spring Semester, 2002
Dr. David Leinweber
Associate Professor of History, Oxford College of Emory University

I. Course Objectives

- A. To gain greater knowledge and appreciation of some of the most enduring monarchs in western civilization.
- B. To sharpen our critical writing and thinking skills.
- C. To reflect upon the nature and significance of founding myths, especially as they relate to the relationship between history and the fine arts.
- D. To reflect upon the role the monarchies have played in the larger context of western civilization.
- E. To construct multi-media presentation projects integrating the history of the mythic kings with their legacies in art, literature, and music.

II. Course Texts

Gregory of Tours, *History of the Franks*, Trans. by Lewis Thorpe
Geoffrey of Monmouth, *History of the Kings of Great Britain*, trans. by Lewis Thorpe
Norma Lorre Goodrich, *Medieval Myths*
Sir James George Frazer, *The Golden Bough*
Livy, *The Early History of Rome*, trans. by Aubrey de Selincourt
Plutarch's Lives, Vol. 1, trans. by John Dryden
Plutarch's Lives, Vol. 2, trans. by John Dryden

Also, additional readings might be distributed by the instructor and should be considered as required readings.

III. Course Format and Procedures

The course will be broken into three grading units, each equal in value.

- A. The primary purpose of the course will be the production of a major 20-page paper focusing on the historical and cultural legacy of a particular "mythic king," assigned to the student by the instructor. The paper will be due on the next to the last day of class. 50% of grade.
- B. The completion of a presentation project, presenting the work done for the paper. While the presentation will be graded Pass/Fail, there will be negative grade ramifications for a 99% effort.
- C. 25% of the grade will be a reading journal, submitted in four separate installments. Reading assignments will be considered in journal entries of around 850 words per class period. They should be bound and submitted to the instructor at the dates indicated below. Date and word-count should

be included as a header for each separate journal entry. On the Honor System, entries should be completed prior to each class based on assigned readings for that day. If readings “hang-over” into the next class period, students should write a 850 word reflection.

- D. 25% of the grade from a short (1.5 spacing, 10 pitch font, front/back sided paper) providing an overview of your mythic king (or themes related to his time, place, etc.) as found in the Fine Arts.

IV. Major Due Dates

February 4, First Reading Journal Entries Due
February 25, Second Reading Journal Entries Due
March 25th, Third Reading Journal Entries Due
April 13th, Final Reading Journal Entries due
April 27th, Short Paper on the Fine Arts Due

V. Various Course Policies:

- A. Your notes are your own work. Sharing of notes is impermissible, unless expressly authorized by the instructor. All students make take and use their own notes exclusively, no exceptions.
- B. Attendance is strongly encouraged, recorded, and a valuable piece of information to be considered at grading time. Moreover, four absences deemed unexcused by the instructor will result in a lowering of the student's grade one full letter.
- C. The instructor reserves the right to amend procedures, schedules, and course format, described in the syllabus, as each class evolves in its particular way. .
- D. This syllabus presents a skeletal overview of the class. The content of the course, and the specific expectations about it, are presented in the class itself.
- E. The Honor Code applies to all work prepared for this course, and all examinations taken during this course.

January

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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4

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8

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10

11

12

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14 welcome

15

16

17

18

19 Plutarch,
Theseus

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21 Plutarch,
Solon

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23

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26 Plutarch,
Lycurgus

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28 Plutarch,
Alexander

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2010

February

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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2 Excalibiur

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4 Excalibur

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9 Livy, Book I,
Numa

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11 Livy, Book
1, Numa

12

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14

15

16 Gregory of
Tours, Book I

17

18 Gregory of
Tours, Book II

19

20

21 movie
night

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23 Goodrich,
Sifrit

24

25 Goodrich,
Tannhauser;
journals due

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2010

March

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thru</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
	1	2 Mystery Cults	3	4 Mystery Cults	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Frazer, 9-60	17	18 Frazer, 60-113	19	20
21	22	23 Frazer, 679-749	24	25 frazer, 750-808	26	27
28	29	30 lecture day	31			

2010

April

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1 G of Monmouth,
1 &2

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6 G of monmouth,
3&4

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8 G of Monmouth,
5 &6

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13 G of
Monmouth, 7&8;
journals due

14

15 Presentat

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18

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20 present

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22 present

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24

25

26

27 present

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29

30

2010

May

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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2-5 p.m. final
presentations

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2010