Introduction:

Geoffrey of Monmouth, *Historia Regum Britanniae:* Writes *History of the Kings of Britain* in 1136 (says it is a story originally found in British i.e. Welsh that he is translating into Latin). Finds the history of Britain lacking (Religious writers showing History of church and Roman Rule, but not a systematic lineage of the kings). Is the “epic” of Britain almost equivalent to the Odyssey and Iliad for Greece. Importantly connects Britain back to Roman History (Brutus, who flees Troy and is first king of Britain). Appeases Religious Leaders and Norman nobility by also including features about strong lineage and Christian roots. Important 🡪 Books 9-12 develop the Arthur legend that will be influential in Chevalier romance genre.

Wace is a translator of Geoffrey. Writing in 12th century (1155) his *Roman de Brut.* Instead of Latin, he writes in Norman-French. Also turns it into Poetry. Adds some interesting ideas including the Idea of the Round Table

Layamon 🡪 A translation of a translation. Focusing on translating Wace’s work into Middle English. *Brut* (1190). Focuses more on Arthur’s life than Wace.

Chrétien de Troyes 🡪 Beginning Chivalric Romance Genre. Writes in Old French (late 12th century). Has more psychological depth to his stories and can be understood as a precursor to the novel. Focusing on Separate stories of the knight, Arthur becomes marginal figure.

What is Chivalric Romance? 🡪 Loyalty to God, Lord, and Lady. Emphasis on Courtly Culture: Love, Loyalty, Tournaments, Honour.

Vulgate Cycle 🡪 A series of Arthurian stories based in the Chivalric Romance genre. This is 13th century and the author is unknown. Written in Middle French. Elaboration of Christian elements and focus on individual knight quests (Holy Grail, Lancelot-Gunivere) etc. Again, Arthur plays marginal role. Roughly 150

Parzival 🡪 Continuation of the Chivalric Romance tradition. Written in Middle German and an inspiration for later producers such as Wagner. One of the most famous literary works in Medieval Germany. Continues the emphasis on Courtly Love and Humility. Author is Wolfram von Eschenbach

Tristan 🡪 Continuation of Chivalric Romance in 13th century. Published by Gottfried von Strassburg. Remained unfinished but another work that influenced Wagner. Well known writing of the German Middle Ages

Malory’s *Morte Dartur* 🡪 1469. One of the most famous adaptations of the Arthurian tradition. Malory was a knight, but sentenced to prison for terrible crimes (he was a thief). Title “Death of Arthur.” Takes the poetry and turns it into prose. Includes some translations from the Vulgate Cycle and supplemented by some of Malory’s own ideas. Published by William Caxton in 1485. One of the first books published by Caxton. Famous, but then fame fades. Repopularized in 19th century

Homer

Pre-Homeric Mesopotamian Cultures 🡪 Homer is seen as one of the origin points of Western literature. How true is that? This class looked closer at the cultures that preceded Homer and the Myth’s that told. There are three major civilizations we looked at: Sumerians (3000 BC), Akkadians (2000 BC), and Phoenicians (1500 BC). The first two developed their own cuneiform pictographic language, while the Phoenicians developed their own alphabet that is understood as foundational to the Latin alphabet. One text famous in the Sumerian-Akkadian cuneiform is the *Epic of Gilgamesh*. There are some similarities visible in it and Homer: mainly, it is a travel narrative about King of Uruk and discusses gods who live on mountains and have power

The elusive Origins of *The Odyssey* 🡪 Early manuscripts of *The Odyssey* have been hard to track down. There are some fragments from the 3rd century BC that were preserved in Egypt, but they are only partial. One might think the copies we would have if the Library of Alexandria didn’t burn down. Interesting, most of the Greek manuscripts available of Homer come from 10th to 14th century in Constantinople. In 1488, A Greek refugee in Constantinople, Demetrius Chalkokondyles, produced a rare copy of Homer’s text in Greek. This is important because the church was emphasizing Latin.

‘editio princeps’ 🡪 Refers to the first printed edition of a book, which was Chalkokondyles’ copy of *The Odyssey* in 1488-1489. Greek type font was rare, so the fact that he produced it in Greek is amazing and important for posterity.

Panathanaea 🡪 Refers to a tournament of sporting events held under tyrant Peisitratos. During the events, Homeric lyrics would be sung out. This is in the 6th century BC

‘Peisistratid recension’ 🡪 Speculative question on whether or not Peisitratos had ordered a revision to Odyssey to create a standardized addition in the 6th Century. No scholarly consensus but evidence in a writing of Cicero and some of the Athenian dialect in the text.

The Homeric Question 🡪 Who wrote the Odyssey? The question is not easily answerable. Lots of different theories have been proposed in Homeric studies. F.A. Wolf was a major contributor to this study. He proposed that Homer was a pre-literate oral bard and that the Odyssey was written down in 6th century during Peisistratid Recension. This means it does not work with a single author, but a long tradition of oral poets retelling the myths until it is finally written down. Still, this is debatable. The analysts say is was written by many different authors where the unitarians say just one (Homer).

dactylic hexameter 🡪 Poetic style of the Odyssey. Refers to the 6 feet that work based on syllable length over stress. Two Options: Dactyl ( – U U) or Spondee (-- --). 5th foot is usually Dactyl (95 percent in Homer) and sixth is almost always Spondee. If the break follows the first syllable of the 3rd foot, it is considered a masculine caesura. If after 2nd syllable, feminine.

Ovid

Virgil 🡪 Virgil was one of the official poets of Rome under the Rule of Emperor Augustus. He is known specifically for developing bucolic poetry that can be seen as a predecessor of Pastoral Poetry. 70-19 BC. Also famous for the Aeneid which tells the story of Aeneas’ founding of Rome after fleeing from Troy. This was modeled after Homer. Very influential for European literature

Horace 🡪 Another official poet of the Roman Empire under Augustus. Known for perfecting the Ode. (85-8 BC)

Ovid’s life and works 🡪 Ovid wrote between 43 BC and 18 AD. He was a bit more of a scandalous poet. During Augustus’ reign, certain conservative values were put in place which went against Ovid’s more erotic style of writing. He can be seen as one of the three major poets of this era with Virgil and Horace, but he was not “official.” In 8 AD, he was sent to exile. Not explicitly sure why, but he briefly alludes to seeing or doing something he shouldn’t have. In exile, he published lots, including the *Metamorphosis.* Other works he published before this are *Ars Amoratia* (2 AD) the *Heroides* and *Amores.*

Historia/Fabula 🡪 Historia refers to “fact.” It is a retelling of something that happens just as it allegedly happened. Fabula, or myth, can include fact in it, but it also forms narratives that are not strictly factual. These stories can be read politically, allegorically, and morally.

Boccaccio

Boccaccio’s life and works 🡪 Boccaccio is associated with the Italian Renaissance starting in the 14th century. At this time, there are major societal changes happening in Italy at this time. Advancements in banking are changing society from feudalism to early modern (Rise of the middle class), as well as the plague which is killing lots of people. The Decameron is one of Boccaccio’s most famous works, but he also wrote other interesting books including an *On the Genealogy of the Gods of the Gentiles* which is an encyclopedia on classical mythology. Also *On Famous Women*.

Dante 🡪 Dante is a huge figure for 14th century Italy because he establishes the written vernacular (not Latin, but Tuscan).

*Divina Commedia* 🡪 (1308-1320) Considered a “commedia” because it is written in “Low Languages” and not a traditional tragedy (this one has a happy ending). Interesting, Divine is later added by Boccaccio. Written in Terza Rima.

Petrarch 🡪 One of the first humanists. Rediscovers Cicero’s letters. Wrote in Latin, but his poetry was in vernacular. A friend and almost mentor to Boccaccio who encouraged him to write in Latin. This is why *Decameron* is written in Vernacular (because it was before encouragement from Petrarch) but the majority of his latter works are written in Latin.

**Navarre**

The position of women writers in Early Modern times 🡪 Discussion about Virginia Woolf’s comments on “Room Of One’s Own” (1929). Talks about the historic difference between women in life and literature. In literature, they are divine beings who are extremely important and obsession for men. But in reality, lots of mistreatment and little autonomy. This is true, but there are still other women writers who had powerful voices historically. Women in nobility and high upper class, would be educated Marguerite de Navarre, Queen of Navarre. Though she wasn’t taught the same as her brother who would become King Francis I of France, she was still very well educated.

The Reformation 🡪 The Reformation was a very influential event during the 15th and 16th century. Navarre was Catholic, but she was sympathetic to Reformation thinkers. She even sheltered John Calvin when he was going to Italy

The role of writing for women’s empowerment 🡪 Navarre had a great reputation among women and men. Considered by some as “the tenth muse” and considered the “Mother of the Renaissance.” She was had a long history of being anthologized.

Main themes of the Heptameron 🡪 Courtly Love, Infidelity, The Corruption of the church, Sexual Violence, Class Differences, Confusion and Deceit

Differences from Boccaccio in terms of framing, themes, and the representation of gender 🡪 Navarre allowed for Gender in stories in much different way from Boccaccio. Only 6 of Navarre’s story do not include women as prominent characters. Major difference in how gender is addressed to. The storytellers all have more individual voices than in Boccaccio. Also the church is more criticized than ridiculed. Less sexual explicitness

Courtly love (meaning, origin, alterations and pastiches) 🡪 Courtly love goes back to Chivalric Romance tradition. Emphasis on love and loyalty. A lord pledges himself to a lady and puts himself at her service. Chastity as complimentary. This is at times compared against “fulfilled love” which is a subversion of courtly love. Another subversion is infidelity.

**Cervantes**

The beginning of Modernity, the shift to a new episteme 🡪 End of 16th century and beginning of 17th century is an Age in Crisis. Emergence of British Empire and decline of Spanish Empire. Also, Scientific Revolution is changing way the world is seen, and technological revolutions are changing how people function in it. More importantly, Spain is heavily catholic at this time, and from the 16th century onwards Catholicism place was changing (reformation)

The changing function of language in society and its impact on literature 🡪 Humanism vs. Chivalric Romance.

Questions of imitation and representation 🡪

The rapports of reality and play 🡪

The meaning and interpretations of Don Quixote’s “madness” (idealism, naïveté, pretense, farce, mise-en-abyme of reality) 🡪

Relationship to the chivalric literary tradition 🡪

Particularities of the frame narrative 🡪

Cide Hamete Benengeli 🡪

Shelley

background of the novel's composition

*Frankenstein* and early 19th-century science (Davy, Darwin, Galvani, Aldini)

the vitality debate

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Pessoa

Heteronyms (and distinctions from pseudonyms, characters, orthonym, subdivisions within the heteronymic system), with some examples

The notion of im/personality, the relationship between heteronyms and depersonalization

“tedio” and its connection to akin concepts like “spleen” and “nausea”

The role of style

The self as a stage

The illusoriness of existence

At least 2 other recurring metaphors - to be compared between different heteronyms (e.g. chess players, abdicator, multiple selves, the universe as dream, flowers, etc.)