

# Seminar Description

## GER 6405 /GET 4930 /MEM 4931: The Courtly Romances

Spring 2017

Professor Will Hasty ([hasty@ufl.edu](mailto:hasty@ufl.edu))

Office Hours: Tuesdays 6th and 7th periods (12:50-3:45), or by appt.

A consideration of the courtly verse romances composed in German in the late twelfth and early thirteenth century. Readings include Arthurian and Grail romances, as well as the heroic epic “Nibelungenlied” and two vernacular religious narratives that are demonstrably influenced by the romances. The seminar begins with a brief consideration of the Latin literary culture of the Christian “Roman empire” that was seen to continue in the Middle Ages. The vernacular verse romances produced in the High Middle Ages are then considered according to the ways in which they can be regarded both as a continuation of and as a break from Latin-Christian “Roman” imperial culture that prepares the way for the Renaissance and Reformation. In conceptualizing the continuities and discontinuities evinced by the romances, particular attention is paid to them as documents of a cultural transition occurring in the twelfth and thirteenth centuries from an understanding of self as sacrifice to an understanding of self as investment or wager.

**The seminar is conducted in English.**

### Reading List

St. Augustine of Hippo, *The City of God* (selected passages to be provided)

*The Nibelungenlied*, trans. A.T. Hatto (Penguin Classics Edition, 1969) ISBN: 0-14-044137-9

*Parzival*, trans. A.T. Hatto (Penguin Classics Edition, 1980) ISBN: 0-14-044361-4

*Tristan*, trans. A.T. Hatto (Penguin Classics Edition, 1967) ISBN: 0-14-044098-4

*Arthurian Romances, Tales, and Lyric Poetry. The Complete Works of Hartmann von Aue* (The Pennsylvania State University Press, 2001) ISBN: 0-271-02112-8

Other shorter texts from the primary and secondary literature will be made available.

Contact Will Hasty ([hasty@ufl.edu](mailto:hasty@ufl.edu)) for more information.

# Readings and Assignments

## Assignments

### 1. Presentation of the Reading Assignments.

The seminar will be arranged to be largely "student-centered" and "student-driven." This means I will ask students working in pairs to make informed presentations of the week's principal reading assignments (the students can divide the work up as they see fit). "Informed" means that the students making the presentation in a given week will present a thorough overview of the main reading assignment(s) while at the same time focusing on particular passages or episodes that they find especially interesting and worthy of discussion and interpretation. "Informed" also means that the students who are presenting the reading assignment in a given week will consult the critical literature and bring a few citations from the critical literature (either hard copies or web presentation) for everyone to consider and discuss. The citations from the secondary literature may involve one of the particular passages or episodes in the reading assignments that the presenters have found particularly important, or they may involve more general questions about broader topics, themes, or problems in the work as a whole. We will adapt as necessary, but, at present, it looks like each student will make two, in some cases possibly three such presentations of the main readings during the course of the semester.

### 2. Passages for Discussion

All students who are NOT involved in presenting the readings during a given week need to read the assignment carefully and be prepared to: a) participate actively in the discussion growing out of your classmates' presentation, and b) at some point during class, be prepared to discuss one or two particular passages that you have previously identified during your reading as especially interesting or worthy of further elaboration or explication.

## Grade percentages.

### Graduate Students:

1. Class participation (includes presentations of the readings, your selected passages, and your preparedness for and involvement in discussions): 40%
2. A research paper of article length (20-25 pages double-spaced typescript including notes) and a research report about your paper to be given on one of the final days of the seminar: 60%

### Undergraduate Students:

1. Class participation (includes presentations of the readings, your selected passages, and your preparedness for and involvement in discussions): 40%

2. Research paper (10-12 pages typescript including notes) and a research report about your paper to be given on one of the final days of the seminar: 30%
3. Take-home Midterm: 15%
4. Take-home Final: 15%

## **Texts**

1. THE NIBELUNGENLIED. TRANS. A.T. HATTO. ISBN: 0140441379. Publisher: PENGUIN CLASSICS. Copyright: 1969.
2. Title: PARZIVAL. Author: WOLFRAM VON ESCHENBACH. TRANSLATED BY A.T. HATTO. ISBN: 0140443614. Publisher: PENGUIN CLASSICS. Copyright: 1980.
3. Title: TRISTAN. Author: GOTTFRIED VON STRASSBURG. ISBN: 0140440984. Publisher: PENGUIN CLASSICS. Copyright: 1967.
4. Title: ARTHURIAN ROMANCES, TALES, AND LYRIC POETRY. THE COMPLETE WORKS OF HARTMANN VON AUE. Author: HARTMANN VON AUE. ISBN: 0271021128. Publisher: PENN STATE UP. Copyright: 2001.
5. Other sundry texts will be made available.

[Middle High German Lexicons \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

## **Reading and homework assignments by week (subject to revision as needed)**


Note: for the purpose of accessing the Titus text database, use "titusstud" (without quotation marks) as the username, and "R2gveda5" (without quotation marks) as the password. As the semester proceeds, the names of students doing commentaries on textual passages from the Middle High German editions will be added below.

### January

4: Introduction to German medieval literary studies. [Absolute Investments of Self](#).

11: [St. Augustine: On Christian Doctrine, Book I \(only\) \(Links to an external site.\)](#); [Michael Frassetto, Medieval Germany: History of Emperors and Empire, ca. 750-ca. 1350; \(Links to an external site.\)](#) [The Hildebrandslied \(Links to an external site.\)](#); Please read the first few chapters of the Nibelungenlied, in case we have time to start with this. [A few Nibelungenlied sources on reserve](#); [An Introduction to Medieval Literary Culture in Germany](#); [Augustine's \*De Doctrina Christiana\*](#);



18: The Nibelungenlied (first half: chapters 1-19, pp. 17-149); [Early Sources and Analogues](#); [Wikipedia: Nibelungenlied. \(Links to an external site.\)](#)

25: The Nibelungenlied (second half; chapters 20-39, pp. 150-291); [The modern scholarly reception of the NL](#);  [Richard Wagner, Ride of the Valkyries \(Links to an external site.\)](#)



; [Hagen on the Rhine Video \(Links to an external site.\)](#); [My review of Jan-Dirk Müller, Rules for the Endgame \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

## February

1: Hartmann von Aue, Erec; Middle High German assignment #4. [Marie de France Prologue of her lais](#); [Chrestien de Troyes prologue](#) ; [Hartmann's Erec-Overview](#) ; [biblical typology \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

8: Hartmann von Aue, [Gregorius \(click here for MHG text\)](#); [\(Links to an external site.\) Curtius \(highlights\)](#). 

15: Hartmann von Aue, [Poor Heinrich \(click here for MHG text\)](#); [\(Links to an external site.\) leprosy](#); [\(Links to an external site.\) Melitta Weiss Adamson article with references to leprosy \(in A companion to Hartmann von Aue\)](#), ed. Francis Gentry [\(Links to an external site.\)](#).



22: Hartmann von Aue, Iwein; [medieval bestiary \(Links to an external site.\)](#); [structure of Iwein](#); [thoughts on the value of time](#).

## March

1: Spring Break


8: Wolfram von Eschenbach, Parzival; [Wolfram's MHG prologue](#) ; [family tree](#) ; [structure](#).

15: Wolfram von Eschenbach, Parzival. [Chretien de Troyes version of the events of Book IX](#); [Bernard of Clairvaux, In Praise of the New Knighthood \(Links to an external site.\)](#); [Peace and Truce of God \(Links to an external site.\)](#).

22: Wolfram von Eschenbach, Parzival. Conclusion. [Sigune and Schionatulander](#).  [Parzival ending MHG](#) .

29: Gottfried von Strassburg, Tristan.

## April

5: Gottfried von Strassburg, Tristan. [Love lyrics. A selection](#); [Selected Middle High German Passages from Gottfried's Tristan](#); 

12: Gottfried von Strassburg, Tristan; [Tristan legend \(Links to an external site.\)](#);

19: Conclusion.