

The University of Toronto

MEDIEVAL ARISTOCRATIC CULTURE

CCR 199 H1S L0252 / Spring 2011

Instructor:	Prof. Markus STOCK	Dept:	German
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Hours:	T 10-12 (& by app.)	Tel.:	416-926-2327

Class meets on **Tuesdays, 2-4 p.m., Carr Hall 107**

This 199 course challenges you to develop skills in critical thinking, oral communication, writing, and research methods. You are expected to keep up with course readings and take part actively in class discussions. The topic of the course is both historically remote and, in some ways, very familiar: the courtly culture of the High Middle Ages (1150-1300). Much of what we still associate with the Middle Ages has to do in some way or another with the achievements of one of its most significant cultural phenomena: The courtly culture of the European, especially French and German, nobility. We see in this culture ways of living and dying, loving and fighting, speaking and behaving, clothing and eating, hunting and killing which have had a lasting influence on Western culture. The socio-historical reality of these phenomena are shady, as we can mainly grasp this culture in its idealizations in medieval literature and art. This seminar is devoted to the study of this culture, its phantasms and achievements. We will read, in translations, some of the main sources on this culture, namely the literary texts it produced, such as romances on King Arthur's round table or the Grail. In addition, we will study reproductions of medieval manuscripts and depictions of courtly culture. Part of the course will also be devoted to its reception in modern literature and especially movies. Readings are in English translations.

Requirements: attendance 10%; participation 10%; 1 presentation: 15%; 1 book review 15%; 1 in-class test 25%; 1 essay 25% (1000 words).

Required Texts: Joachim Bumke, *Courtly Culture. Literature and Society in the High Middle Ages*, Woodstock: Overlook, 2000.

Wolfram von Eschenbach, *Parzival and Titurel*, trans. Cyril Edwards. Oxford World Classics, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Available at The Bob Miller Bookroom, 180 Bloor St West, Lower Concourse (close to the intersection of Bloor Street & Avenue Road).

Please also view *The Fisher King* (USA 1991, dir.: Terry Gilliam) by March 15, 2011.

Jan 11, 2011 Introduction**Jan 18 Basics:** What is medieval aristocratic culture? How is it studied?

Required Reading: Bumke, pp. 1-60.

Homework: Please go to the online facsimile of the Codex Manesse, pick one illustration, bring it to class and explain what you find interesting about it.

[http://digi.ub.uni-](http://digi.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/diglit/cpg848?sid=c2d204e37b4131cec8f36895ba90f2c1&ui_lang=eng)[heidelberg.de/diglit/cpg848?sid=c2d204e37b4131cec8f36895ba90f2c1&ui_lang=eng](http://digi.ub.uni-heidelberg.de/diglit/cpg848?sid=c2d204e37b4131cec8f36895ba90f2c1&ui_lang=eng)**Jan 25 Library Research Session with Reference Librarian Richard Carter****!!Different venue!! Computer Lab, E.J. Pratt Library, 3rd floor, first door to the left****Feb 1** Knighthood and ChivalryReading: Bumke, pp. 46-52; 155-178; 276-325; *Parzival*, Books III and IV**Feb 8** Medieval Aristocratic Love Poetry: The Invention of Romantic Love?

Reading: Bumke, pp. 360-413; The Lyric Poetry of Heinrich of Morungen (download)

Feb 15 Defining Culture as the Other's Other; *Parzival*, Books I and II

Castles and Tents; Bumke, pp. 103-128

Feb 22 READING WEEK**March 1** Courtly Feasting. The Grail.Reading: Bumke, pp. 203-234; *Parzival*, Books V, VI and IX. **Book reviews due!****March 8** Special Session on Medieval Manuscripts**!!Different venue!! Fisher Rare Books Library** (south annex of Robarts Library,), McLean Hunter Seminar Room**March 15** Film viewing: *Lancelot du Lac*. *Parzival*, Books XIV-XVI**March 22** In-class test (45min)*Parzival*: The ending**March 29** Gender and Aristocratic CultureReading: Bumke, pp. 325-359; 509-510. Please review some of the main female characters in *Parzival* (Belakane, Herzeloide, Sigune, Condwiramurs, Cunneware)**April 5** Courtly Culture or Courtly Cultures? **Essays due!**