

DRAFT SYLLABUS English 2076G Medieval Heroes, Villains, and other Outsiders

M.J. Toswell

Mondays 6:30-9:30 p.m.

This course will oscillate between the stories of historical medieval individuals and medieval literary figures, considering how these diverse entities embodied their beliefs and scratched out a sense of agency in the Middle Ages. By fighting monsters, Beowulf in an Old English poem rebuilt one kingdom and maintained another, but in the end failed as a king. Arthur, in a broad range of medieval texts, built a king

Course Evaluation:

Short paper on applying heroism science to a medieval figure	10%
Online short response posts and comments best 5 @ 5%	25%
Final Paper/Presentation	30%
Final Examination	35%

Course Outline (very drafty):

Jan. 7 Robin Hood and William Marshal: heroes or villains or both?
Jan. 14 Intro to “heroism science” and notions of heroism
Jan. 21 *Gods, Heroes & Kings*
Jan. 28 *Gods, Heroes & Kings*
Feb. 4 *Egil’s Saga*
Feb. 11 *Beowulf*
Feb. 25 comparison of *Egil’s Saga* and *Beowulf*
Mar. 4 Marie de France
Mar. 11 Richard I, Eleanor of Aquitaine, Joan of Arc, Richard III
Mar. 18 Malory I
Mar. 25 Malory II
Apr. 1 Malory III
Apr. 8 Some doubts and no conclusions