

English 9178A: Canadian Medievalism

M.J. Toswell

Fall Term, Wednesdays 7-10 p.m.
UC 4401

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 1:30-2:30 p.m.
UC 2418

Medievalism, the reception of the Middle Ages, is a relatively new field of scholarly endeavour, and even newer is analysis of medievalism as it functions in the literature of a particular nation. Australia is far in the lead, with several monographs and many articles specifying the particularly antipodean approach to the Middle Ages, and especially nowadays addressing how Peter Jackson makes the hobbit into a species indigenous to New Zealand. The study of Canadian medievalisms is a new one, but well worth our attention. One of the two inventors of Superman, a thoroughly medieval and chivalric hero, was Canadian. Several modern ventures in the field of real "reel" medievalism are Canadian: the joint Canadian-Icelandic production *Beowulf and Grendel* and more recently the Irish-Canadian television series *The Vikings*. There is also the strain of the academically trained individual engaging in a highly sophisticated way with the Middle Ages, notably the poets Earle Birney and Jeramy Dodds, the Icelandic immigrant literature of Western Canada (especially Manitoba), and the noted twentieth-century thinker, Robertson Davies. The course, then, will introduce the field of medievalism in general before looking at the roots of Canadian medievalism (in British and American nineteenth-century medievalisms by writers such as Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, Walt Whitman, Alfred Lord Tennyson, and T.S. Eliot). We will look at some other manifestations of Canadian medievalism: institutions, arc~of 7B6öç7>f}}sofutofBD, gI so`fV-ðÖ† • Ð02÷ÇBP2ðr2\$@medievalism0†-ç7F-

Course Evaluation:

The final grade will be calculated as follows:

Participation	10%
Presentation(s)	20%
Short online papers 1 @ 10%	10%
Short online papers 5 @ 12%	60%

Short Online Papers: Submitted on OWL, these will be 750-1000 word engagements with one of the texts or ideas treated in the previous week. Your contribution should raise an issue of medievalism. The option of submitting one of these papers is available to you in each week of the course, and you may do six or more than six, of which the best six will be counted. Please note that there are no late submissions, and that your submission in a given week must be on the topic from the previous week. Submissions will be available until Tuesday at midnight for the previous week's material.

You must submit one of these (worth 10%) by 24 September, and the rest on the following schedule, all at 12%: one by 8 October, two more by 12 November, and two by 10 December. You are welcome to submit more as and when you choose to improve your grades. 1 short online paper @ 10% by 24 September; 5 short online papers @ 12% = 60% as per the schedule.

Participation: Participation marks will be given for attendance to the full class, for engagement (that is, having read the materials in advance, prepared your thoughts carefully, and generally faced up to the exigencies of the course), for the quality of questions and answers in class, and for helpfulness with colleagues. In graduate courses such as this one, participation can be overwhelming the discussion and pontificating, which is not good participation and will not be rewarded, or it can be making one or two very useful points or helping someone else out if you understand a concept or an element of Canadian history better than they do. Find a way to make your participation matter in the classroom. 10%

Presentation(s): My basic principles for marking in-class presentations are: content as appropriate for the rest of the class, clarity of delivery, time-keeping, quality of ancillary materials. In short, these presentations are opportunities to teach your colleagues, and that will be the focus in the grading. That is, feel free to impress me if you want, but I will be grading you on how much you convey to your colleagues and how much they engage with your presentation. One presentation of thirty-five minutes @ 20%, or two presentations of fifteen minutes @ 10%

Course Syllabus:

Week 1: Introduction, heraldry, Gothic Revival architecture in Canada

Week 2: Medievalism, *Medievalism: Key Concepts*, Gothic Revival architecture

academic program. With the appropriate documentation, the student will work with both SAS and their graduate programs (normally their Graduate Chair and/or Course instructor) to ensure that appropriate academic accommodations to program requirements are arranged. These accommodations include individual counselling, alternative formatted literature, accessible campus transportation, learning strategy instruction, writing exams and assistive technology instruction.

4. <https://www.uwo.ca/ownyourfuture/>