



Universidad  
de Alcalá

# GUÍA DOCENTE

**MITOS MEDIEVALES EN LA  
LITERATURA MODERNA  
ANGLOAMERICANA Y EL CINE**

***MEDIEVAL MYTHS IN MODERN  
ANGLO-AMERICAN LITERATURE  
AND CINEMA***

**Facultad de Filosofía y Letras  
Universidad de Alcalá**

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**Curso Académico 2021/2022**

**Asignatura Transversal - 1º Cuatrimestre**

## GUÍA DOCENTE

Nombre de la asignatura:	Mitos medievales en la literatura moderna angloamericana y el cine Medieval myths in modern Anglo-American literature and cinema
Código:	<b>100266</b>
Departamento y Área de Conocimiento:	Facultad de Filosofía y Letras
Carácter:	Transversal
Créditos ECTS:	4
Cuatrimestre:	1er cuatrimestre
Profesorado:	Vicente Javier López Mate (vicente.lopez@uah.es)
Horario de Tutoría:	Previa cita por correo electrónico
Idioma en el que se imparte:	Inglés

### 1. MODULE DESCRIPTION

The subject Medieval myths in modern Anglo-American literature and cinema focuses on studying the changes and processes those medieval literary myths have undergone to survive until nowadays' popular culture. This subject will carry out a brief tour through the background which explains the medieval rise in the Anglo-American culture and the arts from the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. Additionally, it also analyses the evolution of the importance of myths in society and explains the survival of medieval myths in modern Anglo-American literature and cinema adaptations. This thesis aims at studying the effects of the application of the different translation theories in order to find out if they reflect characteristics and closely subjective traits and how these traits influence their task of translation and adaptation. Through divergences and convergences with regards the original myth, a reflection of the needs of the period to which they belong will be found.

### 2. COMPETENCES

#### Generic competences:

1. To use web-based and other bibliographical sources to find out reliable information.
2. To present information, analysis, interpretation and conclusions in a coherent, critical and convincing manner.

3. To develop the skills of analysis, argumentation, inference and abstract thinking.
4. To produce well-organised and well-documented essays and reports.
5. To develop the students' own autonomy as learners.

### Subject-specific competences:

1. To identify general cultural, artistic and social developments in the medieval period.
2. To outline and characterise the main developments and types of poetry and prose in the medieval period.
3. To describe the principal literary concerns, themes, styles and symbols of the texts and authors examined.
4. To recognise and discuss the myths from selected pieces of poetry and prose, and to relate them to their contemporary Anglo-American adaptations.

## 3. CONTENTS

Units
Unit 1. What is a Myth?
Unit 2. Neomedievalism and adaptation
Unit 3. Evolution of chivalry and quests in the XX-XXI
Unit 4. Paladins: The Chosen Ones
Unit 5. Arthurian romance and its adaptations
Unit 6. Medieval heroines and villains and adaptation
Unit 7. The Medieval Bestiary and its influence in cinema

## 4. TEACHING AND LEARNING METHODS

### Student's workload: 100 hours

Class-contact hours: 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Lectures</li> <li>- Workshops</li> <li>- End-of-term test</li> </ul>
Independent learning: 70	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Study of lectures notes</li> <li>- Reading literary texts</li> <li>- Seminar preparation (questionnaires)</li> <li>- Researching and working with other students to co-produce a report</li> <li>- Preparing an oral presentation (for the workshops)</li> </ul>
Total : 100	

## 5. ASSESSMENT

### Assessment criteria:

The following criteria will be taken into account for assessment:

- The ability to discuss and write coherently on several issues related to the subject, showing thorough knowledge of the authors and the content of the texts studied, as well as their social, cultural and historical contexts.
- The ability to apply the contents of the units in written assignments, oral presentations, participation in sessions and end-of-term test, responding to literary texts critically, sensitively and in detail, using appropriate terminology and textual evidence.
- The ability to present ideas showing a good command of different communication strategies, and presenting their positions and arguments coherently and accurately both in oral and written expression.
- The ability to use library and research skills consistently, honestly and effectively in all activities.

Students are warned that plagiarism will not be tolerated. Please notice that plagiarism consists of using someone else's ideas without acknowledging the author. The ideas from other sources, regardless of whether they are quoted, summarised or paraphrased, must be documented adequately. It is the students' responsibility to make themselves aware of the University regulation on evaluation and plagiarism (see article 34 of *Normativa de evaluación de los aprendizajes*). The teacher will provide students with assessment cover sheets for written work, which certifies that their submitted work is entirely their own or appropriately referenced. Those students who commit plagiarism in any of the activities of this course will get a fail mark in the corresponding activity. Any plagiarism found in the final version of a paper will be penalised and could result in the failure of the course.

**Assessment procedures:**

In accordance with the University regulations, assessment should be conducted by continuous assessment or a final examination. During the first two weeks of the semester, students may request from the Dean of the Faculty approval to be assessed by means of a final exam, specifying the reasons that justify this request.

Students who do not request or are not granted this option will be assessed by means of the continuous assessment of work performed during the semester (see details below, under “Assessment instruments” and “Marking criteria”).

**Final exam:**

For those students who are not able to follow the continuous assessment scheme there will be one final summative two-hour written exam over the material covered during the module, both in the lectures and in the seminar sessions. This exam may include objective test questions, short answer questions and discussion questions.

If necessary, this Final exam (and its reassessment; please see below) will be held online at UAH Campus Online.

**Reassessment:**

There will be a reassessment opportunity at the end of the second semester. This will also take the form of a two-hour written exam, with a similar format to the above-mentioned final examination, which will constitute 100% of the reassessment mark

**Assessment instruments:**

The assessment of students’ achieved learning outcomes will be based on the following components:

- Class participation.
- Report and oral presentation of a topic
- End-of-term test

Students are required to attend all the lectures, seminars and workshops. Attendance will be monitored and repeated absence without good reason (such as illness) may result in failure. A minimum of 80% attendance at teaching sessions will be required to achieve a pass in this module. The class participation component will be assessed in terms of the level of students’ engagement in the seminars, the quality of their contributions, their preparation for class activities and their attitude.

Active participation as well as the workshop report will be assessed taking into account, when applicable, content, illustration, organisation, expression and oral delivery.

At the semester's end there will be a two-hour test covering the material studied in the module. This test may include objective questions, short answer questions and short discussion questions, covering both the contents of lectures and the texts discussed in class.

If necessary, the end-of-term test will be held online on UAH Campus Online.

### Marking criteria:

The different assessment instruments described above for the continuous assessment process will be used according to the following marking criteria:

- Class participation: 20%
- Workshop report: 40%
- End-of-term test: 40%

Those students who fail the continuous assessment process will not be able to take the final exam, but will have the opportunity, according to the University regulations, of a reassessment at the end of the second semester. This reassessment will be made through a final examination, as described above (see "Assessment procedures").

### Marking descriptors

**Outstanding (MH):** Students display an outstanding grasp of the aims and contents of the module. All assessment criteria have been achieved at an exceptionally high level. Performance in all the tasks shows that students have read and thought at a level well beyond what is expected in the module. Students attend lectures and are always well-prepared for discussion in seminars. They obtain outstanding results in the mid-term and end-of-term tests, or the final exam, if applicable.

- **Excellent (SB):** Students display an excellent grasp of the aims and contents of the module. All assessment criteria have been achieved at a very high standard and an exceptionally high level. Performance in all the tasks shows all or most of the appropriate characteristics expected for this type of work. Students attend lectures and are practically always well-prepared for discussion in seminars, with almost no absences. They obtain excellent results in the mid-term and end-of-term tests, or the final exam, if applicable.

- **Very Good (N):** Students display a very good grasp of the aims and contents of the module. All assessment criteria have been met fully and many have been achieved at a good or very good standard. Performance in all the tasks shows a good knowledge of the syllabus contents. Students attend lectures and seminars, with few absences, and have done most of the preparation for them. They have a good foundation in the prescribed readings and build on ideas put forward in lectures and seminars. They obtain very good results in the mid-term and end-of-term tests, or the final exam, if applicable.

- **Satisfactory (A):** Students show a satisfactory grasp of the aims and contents of the module. All assessment criteria have been met, but some barely exceed the threshold standard to pass the module. Performance in all the tasks shows some of

the appropriate characteristics in relation to content, illustration, organisation and expression. Students are present in lectures and seminars, with few absences, and occasionally contribute to discussions. They obtain acceptable results in the mid-term and end-of-term tests, or the final exam, if applicable.

- **Fail (S):** Students show an unsatisfactory grasp of the aims and contents of the module. Some assessment criteria do not reach the threshold standard to pass the module. Performance in all the tasks shows limited understanding of essential concepts and/or minimal research. Students have multiple absences and when they come, they are often not prepared or they do not say much. Their results in the mid-term and end-of-term tests, or the final exam, if applicable, are insufficient considering the requirements of the course.

## 6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

### Basic bibliography:

- Alexander, Michael. *Old English Literature*. London: Macmillan, 1983.
- Barron, W.R.J. *English Medieval Romance*. London: Longman, 1987.
- Leeming, David Adams. *The Oxford Companion to World Mythology*. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2005.

### Further readings:

- Baldick, Chris. *The Oxford Dictionary of Literary Terms*. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2008.
- Cotterell, Arthur. *A Dictionary of World Mythology*. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 1991.
- Leeming, David Adams. *Mythology: The Voyage of the Hero*. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 1998.
- Lindahl, Carl, John McNamara, and John Lindow. *Medieval Folklore: A Guide to Myths, Legends, Tales, Beliefs, and Customs*. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2002.
- *Penn State studies in Romance literatures*. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1998.
- Puhvel, Jaan. *Comparative Mythology*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1989.
- Thury; Eva M., and Margaret Klopfe Devinney. *Introduction to Mythology: Contemporary Approaches to Classical and World Myths*. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2009.
- Trapp, J. B., Douglas Gray, and Julia Boffey. *Medieval English Literature. The Oxford anthology of English literature*. Oxford, United Kingdom: Oxford University Press, 2002.

## **7. ADDITIONAL PROVISION**

The University of Alcalá guarantees that, if due to health requirements, the public authorities prevent teaching activity from taking place on the University's premises, the teaching plans' objectives will be met through an online teaching and evaluation methodology. The UAH commits to return to face-to-face teaching as soon as said impediments cease.