

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON

DEPARTMENT OF FRENCH

2002-2003

FREN4101 ARTHURIAN PROSE ROMANCE

Write TWO essays, ONE from each Section.

You may answer in English or in French, but no special credit will be given for writing in French rather than in English.

Please note that AT LEAST ONE option paper MUST be written in English.

DO NOT BASE BOTH ESSAYS IN THIS COURSE, OR AN ANSWER IN THIS COURSE AND ONE IN ANOTHER OPTION, ON THE SAME TEXT OR ON SUBSTANTIALLY THE SAME MATERIAL.

You must refer to paragraphs 1 to 8 of the French Department's 'BA courses: Assessed Essays Booklet' for further information on the length of essays, how they are assessed, submission procedures and penalties for late submission, as well as for essay writing guidelines. Your attention is also drawn to the statement on 'Plagiarism and Non-originality' in that booklet and in the French Department Student Handbook.

Titles may be selected only from the following list: rewording of titles is not permitted.

SECTION A

1. 'In the character of Merlin, the cosmic opposites of good and evil exist in harmonious reconciliation.' Discuss, with reference to Robert de Boron's *Merlin*. You may also refer if you wish to other texts you have studied on this course.
2. 'Despite the emphasis on anonymous adventures, identity in the prose *Lancelot* is determined primarily by lineage.' Discuss, with reference to EITHER or BOTH volumes of *Lancelot du Lac*. You may also refer if you wish to other texts you have studied on this course.
3. To what extent, in your view, can we consider Gauvain to be the hero of volume II of *Lancelot du Lac*? You may also refer, if you wish, to other texts you have studied on this course.

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4. 'Spirituality is an essentially masculine prerogative.' Discuss, with reference to *La Queste del Saint Graal*. You may also refer, if you wish, to other texts you have studied on this course.
5. How adequate, in your view, is the term 'tragedy' to describe *La Mort le roi Artu*?
6. 'In Arthurian prose romances, history looks not backward but forward.' Discuss with reference to ONE or MORE of the texts you have studied on this course.

SECTION B

7. Analyse the theme of kingship as it appears in TWO or MORE texts you have studied on this course. You may also refer, if you wish, to other texts read in connection with this course.
8. Analyse the relationship between chivalry and spirituality in TWO or MORE texts you have studied on this course. You may also refer, if you wish, to other texts read in connection with this course.
9. 'Although earthly signs are an unreliable guide to the truth, their unreliability does not undermine the idea of that truth's existing, or even the possibility of its being known.' Discuss, with reference to TWO or MORE texts you have studied on this course. You may also refer, if you wish, to other texts read in connection with this course.
10. 'Those who embroil themselves with the devil involve themselves in the destabilisation of traditional gender categories.' Discuss, with reference to TWO or MORE texts you have studied on this course. You may also refer, if you wish, to other texts read in connection with this course.
11. 'In Arthurian prose romance, fathers exercise their power only when absent or dead.' Discuss, with reference to TWO or MORE texts you have studied on this course. You may also refer, if you wish, to other texts read in connection with this course.

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