

Legends of Arthur (English 311)

Paper Two : Love

2 to 3 pages long, double-spaced. Due Thursday 19 October.

Aim: To compare Marie de France to Chrétien de Troyes. Specifically, to examine how each suggests through imagery contradictions inherent in love.

Method: Choose two romances, one from Marie, one from Chrétien. Then, choose two similar scenes (for example, a lady in a tower in both authors, or a chance meeting in a garden in both authors). Compare them.

Answer this: We have seen how Chrétien illustrates the competing forces of desire and civility. Love is portrayed as both a powerful, natural urge and as an artificial courtly game. How do courtly lovers resolve the contradiction between a burning desire to love and an obligation to their communities and families? Answer the question by using two scenes—one from Marie and one from Chrétien—to illustrate your musings.

NB. You don't have to make an argument and reach a conclusion. You can muse about this topic on paper, but in an orderly way, please!