THE ARTHURIAN ROMANCES OF CHRÉTIEN de TROYES

          OLLI  WINTER  2021

    PRELIMINARY SYLLABUS

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 This syllabus is intended to give you an overview of the reading schedule for the course.  About a week before each session I will email more detailed suggestions for focusing your reading and our discussion of ‘the romance of the week’.  Overall, we will be exploring the tensions arising from the often conflicting requirements of chivalric prowess and *fin amour*.  How can/does courtly behavior (*courtoisie*)  encompass both?  We will be looking at these problems from the perspectives of the knights and the ladies in these narratives.  In addition, we will try to pay particular attention to Chrétien as storyteller, e.g. how he structures his romances, what he chooses to describe, what he declines to say, etc..

Session 1 - Wed. 27 Jan. 2021:  1. Background and Context

                   2. Chrétien’s Prologue to Erec and Enide

*“tret d’un conte d’avanture / une molt bele conjointure”*

Session 2 - Wed.  3 Feb. 2021:  Erec and Enide - *une autre molt bele conjointure?*

                  Or the second honeymoon from hell?

Session 3 - Wed. 10 Feb. 2021:  Cligés - “I love him, I love him not…”

*Fin amour* meets scholasticism

Session 4 - Wed. 17 Feb. 2021:  The Knight of the Cart (Lancelot) - He who

hesitates is lost, ... or maybe not.

Session 5 - Wed. 24 Feb. 2021:  The Knight with the Lion (Yvain) - Love of the lady

won and lost (and won again?):  marvels, madness, and damsels in distress galore

Session 6 - Wed.  3 Mar. 2021:  Drawing Conclusions / Offering Assessments