

Dr. Jamison
English 2100
Topic Suggestions

1. Compare the role of women in *SGGK* with the women in Chretien's "Lancelot." Do actions of Morgan le Fay, Guenevere, and/ or Lady Hautdesert empower them or reduce them to objects?
2. Consider Maurice Keen's definitions of Chivalry. How and why does the definition change emphasis in the works we have read? Compared to the knights in Geoffrey and Chretien's works, how does Gawain measure up? How is he being tested? Does he pass the test?
3. Although there is no conventional battle scene in *SGGK*, symbolic references to battle can be found as well as lavish descriptions of armour and weapons. Explore the role of the knight as warrior in *SGGK* and/ or explain the symbolic references to warfare. Consider warfare in this work as it compares to Chretien's and Geoffrey's work.
4. Explore the topical details in this work (hospitality, armour, castles, jewelry, etc). What function do they have? Can you find similar passages in the other works we have read? If so, offer a comparison. If not, offer an explanation.
5. How do Capellanus' rules pertain to *SGGK*? Compare Gawain in this work to Lancelot in Chretien's romance. In what ways are these characters governed by the rules?
6. Compared to the other two works we have read, how does magic pervade the story and contribute to the action of *SGGK*?
7. Compared to the two other works we have read, how does Christianity play an important role in the text?
8. Consider the portrayals of King Arthur himself in Geoffrey's history, Chretien's romance, and *SGGK*. What aspects of his character remain the same? What aspects differ? Explain the significance of Arthur's portrayal in each of these texts.
9. Compare the Green Knight to other characters we have encountered so far, such as the giant in Geoffrey's work or Meleagant in Chretien's work. Is the Green Knight ultimately good or evil?
10. Compare the structure of *SGGK* to the structure of "Lancelot." What is gained or lost by the omission of digressions in *SGGK*? Explore the authors' intentions as it relates to the structure of each work.