

JAMES MADISON UNIVERSITY
COURSE OUTLINE
CULTURAL HISTORY OF SCOTLAND
(SHORT-TERM SUMMER SESSION 2008)

ARTH 320

Travel Study in Art History

Professor William P. Boyer, Jr.

Mrs. Leila O. W. Boyer

June 9-30, 2008

Course Overview

Students participating in the Cultural History of Scotland Short Term Summer Session will become closely familiar with the art and architecture of Scotland through reading selected works about noted Scottish artist and architects visiting historically significant sites that display their works. The course will take the student through the various phases of art of peoples living in Scotland, including the Picts and their incised stone art, the Celts and the Book of Kells, through the influence of Flemish School, European and English Romanticists and Impressionists and Modernists.

Students will visit Museums, Galleries and Historic Houses throughout Scotland for exposure to Scottish art forms, architecture and material culture. St Andrews University History Professor Christine McGladdery will lecture on Scotland and the European Renaissance with an emphasis on art and architecture. Private guided tours will include the Scottish Collection in Edinburgh's National Gallery where they will see the works of Allan Ramsay, Robert Scott Lauder, David Wilkie, Henry Raeburn and William McTaggart.

Private tours will examine the architecture of Register House, location of the National Archives of Scotland, and the Royal Mile. In Edinburgh and Glasgow students will learn to identify the works of some of Scotland's most important architects: William Bruce, Robert Adam, William Playfair, and Charles Rennie Mackintosh, and to recognize the elements of vernacular architecture on the landscape. Students will also be taught to critically analyze the exhibits displayed at museums and historic houses, evaluating the language used in labels, lighting, content, and interactivity offered to the public through hands-on activities. Additional focus on material culture, decorative arts, fibre arts, and public memorial and commemorative sculpture and monuments, including gravestones will be discussed and noted during the tour. They will also learn about Scotland's long musical heritage through a visit to Highland games and musical venues throughout the trip.

Course Requirements, Readings and Assignments

1. Students will select and read a general history of Scotland text. Among those recommended are:

J. D. Mackie *A History of Scotland*

Nigel Tranter *The Story of Scotland*

Fitzroy McLean *Scotland: A Concise History*

T.M. Divine *The Scottish Nation*

Magnus Magnusson *Scotland: the story of a nation*

2. Students will be asked to read selected articles dealing with Prehistoric and Early historic arts including that of the Picts and Romans, Christian art and architecture which will be seen at Melrose, St Andrews and Arbroath Abbeys, St. Giles and Glasgow Cathedrals and Rosslyn Chapel which we will visit during the tour, Classicism and the effects of Celticism, Art during the Age of Enlightenment, and the Modernity and Revivals of the late 19th century and 20th century.

3. Each student will select a research topic in consultation with Dr. and Mrs. Boyer. The project must relate to the area of study taken as credit, i.e., history for HIST 391, literature for ENG 302, art or architecture for ARTH 320, or humanities for GHUM 251. During the week in St Andrews each student will research the topic using the University of St Andrews Library or the City of St Andrews library and will write a 7-10 page paper on the topic. Papers will be due the day the program moves from St Andrews to Edinburgh (June 9.) Students will give a short presentation of their research project to the group at the appropriate times during the trip (i.e., if the topic deals with the architecture of Charles Rennie Macintosh, the student will present his or her research the night before our trip to Glasgow.)

4. Each student will maintain a detailed journal of the trip, describing the sites visited and their impressions of Scotland and the Scottish people they encounter during our journey. These descriptions might include details of the prehistory, history, art, architecture, ecology, observations of Scottish culture, comparisons with scenes in Scottish literature, etc. Students are encouraged to be as creative as possible by illustrating their journals with drawings or photos, mementos and sidebar notations. These journals will be updated daily and will be reviewed by Dr. and Mrs. Boyer at least three times during the trip. The journals must be thorough and attention must be paid to proper composition as they will contribute significantly to the student's final grade.

5. Students will be given information packets dealing with history, art, architecture, culture, etc. throughout the trip. These materials must be read as assigned and students must be prepared to discuss these materials during the trip.

Grade interpretation:

(A) Means outstanding in all aspects of the course, demonstrating mastery of the subject, excellent exposition, and incisive interpretation .

(B) Means well-above average achievements in mastery of the subject, exposition, and interpretation throughout the course.

(C) Means comprehension of the basic concepts, competent exposition, and interpretation. The grade of C indicates that the student has learned the subject at an appropriate university level.

(D) Means unsatisfactory but still barely passing.

(F) Means failure.