

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

ENG 302
Special Topics in Literature and Language
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 literature and language of Scotland through reading selected works of noted Scottish writers and by visiting historically significant sites and discussing events that influenced those writers. A visit to Edinburgh's Writer's Museum which exhibits displays on Robert Burns, Walter Scott and R. L. Stevenson will enhance their understanding of the private lives and the inspiration Scotland's people and landscape gave these writers. Students will also visit Abbotsford, the home of Sir Walter Scott, and will travel through the Borders and Highlands; through study of the history of Scotland they will recognize the influences that affected Scottish literature over time.

Students will discuss the impact that political events in Scotland's history had on the country's literature. When James VI of Scotland became James I of England, Scottish writers quickly learned to compose their writings in English rather than using Scots dialect. The later revival of Scottish pride in heritage and the popularity of Scott, Hogg and Burns restored the voice of Scots and Gaelic characters in literature. They will also learn about Scotland's long enduring literature of song through a visit to Highland games and musical venues throughout the trip

Students will participate in private classroom instruction on the rudiments of Gaelic and the importance the resurgence of that language is having on Scottish nationality. Gaelic is now being taught in Highland elementary schools and bilingual (English-Gaelic) signage is used on Scottish highways. Students will be encouraged to read local and national newspapers and magazines to understand how this is affecting Scottish daily life.

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*
- Nathaniel Harris *Heritage of Scotland: a cultural history*
- R. A. Houston and W.W. J.Knox, eds., *The New Penguin History of Scotland From the Earliest Times to the Present Day*

2. Students will be asked to read Robert Louis Stevenson's *Kidnapped*, and selected works of Scottish writers including William Dunbar (c1460-1520), Robert Wedderburn (1510-1552), King James VI and I (1566-1625), William Drummond (1585-1649), Tobias Smollett (1721-1771), James MacPherson (1738-1796), Robert Burns (1759-1796), Ann MacVicar Grant (1755-1838), James Hogg (1770-1835), George Gordon, Lord Byron (1788-1824), Walter Scott (1771-1832), Edward Ramsay (1793-1872), John Lockhart (1794-1854), Alicia Spottiswood, Lady Scott (1810-1900), Neil Munro (1863-1930), J. M. Barrie (1860-1937), John Buchan (1875-1940), Neil Gunn (1891-1973) and Hugh MacDiarmid (1894-1978.)

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 works of Sir Walter Scott, the student will present his or her research the night before our trip to Abbotsford, Scott's home in the Borders area.)

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.