

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

GHUM 251

Modern Perspectives

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 history, art, architecture, literature, music and language of Scotland, and will also learn about the modern political, social and economic issues that impact Scotsmen and women today. They will experience lectures, visits to museums, historic houses, castles, abbeys and cathedrals, sites where major military events occurred, and will have guided tours of important sites such as St Andrews, Edinburgh's Royal Mile, the National Archives of Scotland, and the new Parliament Building. They will learn the rudiments of Scots Gaelic and the important resurgence of that language in Scotland today. They will learn about Scotland's folkways, its historic and current material culture, and will come to understand environmental and ecological factors that have affected Scotland's history and are impacting decisions about her future.

They will study the contributions Scottish writers, philosophers, economists, inventors, industrialists, and entrepreneurs have given to the world. They will visit the Writers Museum in Edinburgh which highlights the accomplishments and lives of Walter Scott, Robert Burns, and Robert Louis Stevenson and will visit Abottsford, Scotts home in the Borders area. They will read and discuss the works of philosopher and historian David Hume, the economist Adam Smith, and Adam Ferguson, the father of sociology. During a private guided tour of the Scottish Collection at the National Gallery they will see the art of Allan Ramsay, Robert Scott Lauder, David Wilkie, Henry Raeburn and William McTaggart, and by touring Edinburgh and Glasgow, will see the architecture of Robert Adam, William Playfair, and Charles Rennie Mackintosh; driving trips through the Scottish countryside will give them the opportunity to recognize the elements of vernacular architecture on the landscape. 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*

Nathaniel Harris *Heritage of Scotland: a cultural history*

2. 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.)

3. 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.

4. 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.