

HL4030 – Scottish Literature (course guide subject to change)

This course will introduce you to the main themes and characteristics of Scottish literature from the medieval period to the present day, covering Romanticism, the Enlightenment, Modernism and the contemporary era. The course will trace the vast transformations undergone in Scotland in recent history and study how literature has both reacted to and driven these changes. We will study the historical backgrounds to the texts, discuss questions of national identity and look at Scotland’s contribution to modern philosophy. The course will include poetry and prose from the nation’s three languages, Gaelic, Scots (alongside translations) and English. The course will cover supernatural mysteries, literary hoaxes, accounts of bloody warfare, poetry of insult and mockery, gritty urban realism, harrowing depictions of drug abuse, and renderings of Scotland’s natural beauty.

Course Assessment:

3,500 word essay/Class participation: 50%  
Final exam: 50%

Set texts:

Walter Scott, *Waverley*  
James Hogg, *Confessions of a Justified Sinner*  
Robert Louis Stevenson, *Kidnapped*  
Lewis Grassie Gibbon, *Sunset Song*  
Muriel Spark, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*  
Irvine Welsh, *Trainspotting*

Week	Topic
1	Introduction: G. Gregory Smith, Chapter One: ‘Two Moods’ from <i>Scottish Literature, Its Character and Influence</i> , Alan Riach, <i>What is Scottish Literature?</i> Texts will be provided as pdfs.
2	Words of war: John Barbour, ‘The Bruce’, Blind Harry, ‘The Actes and Deidis of the Illustre and Vallyeant Campioun Schir William Wallace’ and anonymous, ‘The Flyting of Dumbar and Kennedie’, (texts will be provided).
3	The Scottish Enlightenment: Robert Burns, ‘Tam o’ Shanter’; essays and excerpts from David

	Hume. Hume texts will be provided as pdf.
4	The Historical Novel: Walter Scott, <i>Waverley</i> (1814)
5	A Celtic Fake? Macpherson's <i>Ossian</i> (text will be provided)
5	Duality and diablerie: James Hogg, <i>Confessions of a Justified Sinner</i> (1824)
6	Highland Adventures: Robert Louis Stevenson, <i>Kidnapped</i> (1886)
7	Scottish Renaissance 1: Hugh MacDiarmid, selected poetry (texts will be provided).
8	Scottish Renaissance 2: Lewis Grassie Gibbon, <i>Sunset Song</i> (1932)
9	Scottish Renaissance 3: Selected poetry by Somhairle MacGill-Eain/Sorley MacLean
10	'an unusual teacher': Muriel Spark, <i>The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie</i> (1961)
11	Urban Scotland 1: Irvine Welsh, <i>Trainspotting</i> (1993)
12	Urban Scotland 2: James Kelman, selected short stories. (texts will be provided).

## Further Reading

### General:

Alcobia-Murphy, Shane; Archbold, Johanna; Gibney, John; Jones, Carol (Eds.). *Beyond the Anchoring Grounds: More Cross-Currents in Irish and Scottish Studies*. Belfast: Cló Ollscoil na Banríona, 2005.

Bell, Bill. *The Edinburgh History of the Book in Scotland* (vol. III). Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2007.

Bell, Eleanor. *Questioning Scotland: Literature, Nationalism, Postmodernism*. Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2004.

Black, Ronald (Ed). *An Tuil – Anthology of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Scottish Gaelic Verse*. Edinburgh: Polygon, 2012.

Carruthers, Gerard et al (Eds). *Beyond Scotland – New Contexts for Twentieth Scottish Literature*. Amsterdam and New York: Rodopi, 2004.

Chapman, Malcolm. *The Gaelic Vision in Scottish Culture*. London: Croom Helm, 1978.

Craig, Cairns. *Devolving English Literature*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2000.

Craig, Cairns. *Intending Scotland: Explorations in Scottish Culture since the Enlightenment*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2009.

Craig, Cairns (Ed). *The History of Scottish Literature* (Vol 4 – Twentieth Century). Aberdeen; Aberdeen University Press, 1987, pp. 103-118.

Craig, Cairns. *The Modern Scottish Novel: Narrative and the National Imagination*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1999.

Crawford, Robert. *Scotland's Books*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.

Crawford, Robert (Ed.). *The Scottish Invention of English Literature*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998.

Crotty, Patrick. 'That Caledonian Antisyzygy' in *The Poetry Ireland Review*, No. 63, Winter, (1999), pp. 89–93.

Devine, T.M. *Scotland's Empire, 1600 – 1815*. London: Penguin Allen Lane, 2003.

Devine, T.M. *The Scottish Nation: 1700 – 2000*. New York: Penguin, 2001.

Duncan, Ian. *Scott's Shadow: The Novel in Romantic Edinburgh*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2007.

Gifford, Douglas et al (Eds.). *Scottish Literature*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2002.

Gifford, Douglas (Ed.). *The History of Scottish Literature* (Vol. 3). Aberdeen: Aberdeen University Press, 1988.

Hook, Andrew (Ed.). *The History of Scottish Literature Volume 2 1660 – 1800*. Aberdeen: Aberdeen University Press, 1987.

Longley, Edna; Hughes, Eamonn and O'Rawe, Des (Eds.). *Ireland (Ulster) Scotland: Concepts, Contexts, Comparisons*. Belfast: Cló Ollscoil na Banríona, 2003.

Lynch, Michael. *Scotland: A New History*. London: Pimlico, 1992.

Lynch, Michael (Ed.). *The Oxford Companion to Scottish History*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001.

McCourt, David. *Understanding Scotland: The Sociology of a Nation*. London and New York: Routledge, 2001.

McCulloch, Margery Palmer. *Scottish Modernism and its Contexts 1918-1959*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2009.

MacDonald, Catriona M. M. *Whaur Extremes Meet – Scotland's Twentieth Century*. Edinburgh, Birlinn, 2009.

Mellvanney, Liam and Carruthers, Gerard (Eds.). *The Cambridge Companion to Scottish Literature*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012, pp. 261-274.

Mellvanney, Liam and Ryan, Ray (Eds.). *Ireland and Scotland: Culture and Society, 1700-2000*. Dublin: Four Courts, 2005.

Pittock, Murray. *Scottish Nationality*. Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2001.

Ryan, Ray. *Ireland and Scotland: Literature and Culture, State and Nation, 1966–2000*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2002.

Smith, Gregory. *Scottish Literature: Its Character and Influence*. London: MacMillan and Co., 1919.

Watson, Roderick. *The Literature of Scotland*. Basingstoke: MacMillan, 1984.

Wittig, Kurt. *The Scottish Tradition in Literature*. Westport: Greenwood, 1958.

### **Robert Burns, David Hume and The Scottish Enlightenment:**

Bailey, Alan and O'Brien, Dan. *The Continuum Companion to Hume*. London and New York: Continuum, 2012.

Bryson, Gladys. *Man and Society: The Scottish Inquiry of the Eighteenth Century*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1945.

Broadie, Alexander (Ed). *The Cambridge Companion to the Scottish Enlightenment*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2003.

Broadie, Alexander (Ed.) *The Scottish Enlightenment: An Anthology*. Edinburgh: Canongate Press, 1997.

Buchan, James. *Capital of the Mind: How Edinburgh Changed the World*. Edinburgh: Birlinn, 2007.

Carruthers, Gerard (Ed.). *The Edinburgh Companion to Robert Burns*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2009.

Crawford, Robert. *Robert Burns and Cultural Authority*. Edinburgh: Polygon, 1997.

David Daiches (Ed.) *A Hotbed of Genius: The Scottish Enlightenment 1730–1790*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1986.

Daiches, David. *The Paradox of Scottish Culture: The Eighteenth Century Experience*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1964.

Daiches, David. 'The Scottish Enlightenment' in David Daiches (Ed.) *A Hotbed of Genius: The Scottish Enlightenment 1730-1790*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1986.

Norton, David Fate and Taylor, Jacqueline (Eds). *The Cambridge Companion to Hume* (Second Edition). Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009.

McIlvanney, Liam. *Burns the Radical*. Phantassie, East Lothian: Tuckwell Press, 2002.

### **Walter Scott and James Hogg:**

Haggis, D. R. 'Scott, Balzac, and the Historical Novel as Social and Political Analysis: "Waverley" and "Les Chouans"' in *The Modern Language Review*, Vol. 68, No. 1 (1973), pp. 51-68.

Lincoln, Andrew. *Walter Scott and Modernity*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2006.

Lukács, Georg. *The Historical Novel*. London: Merlin, 1962.

Muir, Edwin. *Scott and Scotland: The Predicament of the Scottish Writer*. Edinburgh: Polygon, 1982.

Robertson, Fiona. *Legitimate Histories: Scott, Gothic and the Authority of Fiction*. Oxford Clarendon Press, 1995.

Simpson, Louis. *James Hogg: A Critical Study*. Edinburgh and London: Oliver and Boyd, 1962.

### **Robert Louis Stevenson:**

Hammond, J.R. *A Robert Louis Stevenson Companion*. Basingstoke and London: Macmillan, 1984.

Reid, Julia. *Robert Louis Stevenson, Science, and the Fin de Siècle*. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2006.

Sandison, Alan. *Robert Louis Stevenson and the Appearance of Modernism*. Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1996.

### **Neil M. Gunn and Lewis Grassie Gibbon:**

Gifford, Douglas. *Neil M Gunn and Lewis Grassie Gibbon*. Edinburgh: Kennedy and Boyd, 1983.

Gunn, Diarmid and Murray, Isobel (Eds). *Neil Gunn's Country: Essays in Celebration of Neil Gunn*. Edinburgh: Chambers, 1991, pp. 75-114.

Hart, Francis Russell. *Neil M. Gunn: The Man and the Writer*. Edinburgh: Blackwood, 1973.

McCulloch, Margery. *The Novels of Neil M Gunn: A Critical Study*. Edinburgh; Scottish Academic Press, 1987.

### **Hugh MacDiarmid:**

Bold, Alan. *MacDiarmid – The Terrible Crystal*. London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1983.

Gish, Nancy K (Ed.). *Hugh MacDiarmid: Man and Poet*. Edinburgh and Orono, Maine: Edinburgh University Press and the National Poetry Foundation, 1992.

Lyall, Scott. *Hugh MacDiarmid's Poetry and Politics of Place: Imagining a Scottish Republic*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2006.

**Muriel Spark:**

Bold, Alan. *Muriel Spark*. London: Methuen, 1986.

Gardiner, Michael and Maley, Willy (Eds). *The Edinburgh Companion to Muriel Spark*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2010.

Herman, David. *Muriel Spark: Twenty-first Century Perspectives*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010.

**Irvine Welsh and James Kelman:**

Schoene-Harwood, Berthold. *The Edinburgh Companion to Irvine Welsh*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2010.

Gray, Alasdair, Kelman, James and Toremans, Tom, 'An Interview with Alasdair Gray and James Kelman' in *Contemporary Literature*, Vol. 44, No. 4 (Winter, 2003), pp. 564-586.

Hames, Scott (Ed). *The Edinburgh Companion to James Kelman*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2010.

Kelly, Aaron. *Irvine Welsh*. Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2005.

Morace, Robert A. *Irvine Welsh's Trainspotting: A Reader's Guide*. London: Continuum, 2001.