

HL4030 – Scottish Literature
Course guide subject to minor changes
Please print only when necessary

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HL4030 – Scottish Literature

This course will introduce you to the main themes and characteristics of modern Scottish literature from the eighteenth century to the present day, covering Romanticism, the Enlightenment, Modernism, Postmodernism, 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 (both alongside translations) and English.

Learning Objectives

The course will:

- Demonstrate the complex relationship between Scottish culture and history
- Establish the main trends, concerns, and characteristics of Scottish writing
- Create links between texts in the course founded upon historical and cultural context

Content

- Canonical Scottish texts
- Material on critical approaches to Scottish writing
- Historical context – detailed information on the main developments of Scottish history

Assessment

A) 35% – 3,500 word essay (due in on the 1st of March)

The essay must cover two texts and involve original research

The essay should also include a coherent argument supported by close reading of the text(s) All

paragraphs should be related to a central theme and adhere to a sound structure

Claims/readings/arguments should be properly developed and supported by relevant quotations from the text (s)

Relevant critical sources must be utilized and correctly cited

B) 50%—2 1/2 hour exam

Students will be required to sit a 2 1/2 hour closed-book exam which will consist of a text identification component and an essay component

The essay will test the students' knowledge and understanding of the texts/themes of the course and their ability to construct arguments and critical positions relating to the course concepts

C) 15%-Class participation

Students participation in seminars – including attendance, engagement with seminar activities and discussions – will be assessed

Set texts (all other texts will be provided via Blackboard):

James Hogg, *Confessions of a Justified Sinner*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010.

Thomas Carlyle, *Sartor Resartus*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2018.

Robert Louis Stevenson, *Kidnapped*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014.

Nan Shepherd, *The Living Mountain*. Edinburgh: Canongate, 2011.

Muriel Spark, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. London: Penguin, 2000.

William McIlvanney, *Laidlaw*. Edinburgh: Canongate, 2013.

Course content

Week one

Introduction: G. Gregory Smith, Chapter One: 'Two Moods' from *Scottish Literature, Its Character and Influence*, Alan Riach, 'What is Scottish Literature?'

Week two

Scottish Romanticism: Robert Burns, selected poetry

Week three

Scottish Gothic: James Hogg, *Confessions of a Justified Sinner* (1824)

Week four

Celticism: Walter Scott, 'The Two Drovers' (1827), section from Macpherson's *Ossian*

Week five

The Scottish Enlightenment: David Hume, selected essays

Week six

Philosophy of Clothes: Thomas Carlyle, *Sartor Resartus* (1836)

Week seven

Highland Adventures: Robert Louis Stevenson, *Kidnapped* (1886)

Week eight

Scottish Modernism: Selected poetry by Hugh MacDiarmid, and Somhairle MacGill-Eain/Sorley MacLean

Week nine

The Scottish Landscape: Nan Shepherd, *The Living Mountain* (1944)

Week ten

An 'unusual teacher': Muriel Spark, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* (1961)

Week eleven

Tartan Noir: William McIlvanney, *Laidlaw* (1977)

Week twelve

Scottish Postmodernism: A short story and excerpts from *Lanark* (1981) and *1982, Janine* (1984) by Alasdair Gray

Week thirteen

Revision

Suggested further reading

History

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.

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

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

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

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

Literature and culture (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.

Barlow, Richard. *The Celtic Unconscious: Joyce and Scottish Culture*. Notre Dame: Notre Dame University Press, 2017.

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 20th 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.
- Craig, Cairns. *The Wealth of the Nation*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2018.
- 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.
- Fazzini, Marco (ed.). *Alba Literaria: A History of Scottish literature*. Venezia: Amos Edizioni, 2005.
- 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.
- McCulloch, Margery Palmer. *Scottish Modernism and its Contexts 1918-1959*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2009.
- McIlvanney, Liam and Carruthers, Gerard (eds). *The Cambridge Companion to Scottish Literature*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012, pp. 261-274.
- McIlvanney, Liam and Ryan, Ray (eds.). *Ireland and Scotland: Culture and Society, 1700-2000*. Dublin: Four Courts, 2005.
- Pittock, Murray. *Scottish Nationality*. Basingstoke: Palgrave, 2001.
- Pittock, Murray (ed). *The Edinburgh Companion to Scottish Romanticism*. Edinburgh University Press, 2011.
- 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.