

**HSA020C904H Unearthing Modern Celtic Culture:  
Ireland and Scotland**

Instructor: Kevin Taylor Anderson, PhD  
(2019 Edit)

**Module Rationale**

This course aims to expose undergraduate students to the diverse and rich cultures of Ireland and Scotland. The course focuses primarily on contemporary Ireland and Scotland as expressed through the arts and media with a particular focus on how “Celticness” and Celtic history are embedded and featured in their respective contemporary societies. While our main focus is on contemporary society in Ireland and Scotland, we will also be visiting sites of historical and archaeological significance as well. We will be examining cultural sites, visual arts, and media and we will be meeting with producers of these cultural products as well, in order to gain a greater understanding of the range and variety of media representations of “Irishness,” “Scottishness,” and “Celticness.”

**Learning Outcomes**

Students will gain a rich and deep understanding of contemporary and historical issues at the center of Irish and Scottish national identity. Concentration will be on the arts and culture, but students will also have a working understanding of historical, political, and economic distinctions between Ireland and Scotland as well.

Students will also gain a broad appreciation of the peoples of Ireland and Scotland as a means to challenge stereotypes and preconceptions that are ubiquitous in popular media.

Students will also gain skills in research methods: such as interviewing, critical analysis of media and visual culture, as well as presentation and collaboration skills.

**Teaching and Learning Methods**

This is an experience-based course, mixing lecture and class discussion with visits to cultural and historical sites, private tours of museums, galleries, theatres, and film and television production studios, and activities. The readings are designed to give students a working understanding of Irish and Scottish history as well as an appreciation of the role arts and media play in Irish and Scottish societies.

**Assessment**

Your grade for the course is based on the quality and insightfulness of both your research paper and presentation:

- 1) Research Paper (4-6 pages) (60%)
- 2) Research Presentation (10-minutes) (40%)

## **Research Project**

Students will pick a topic that relates to both Scotland and Ireland. Research will be comprised of site visits with the class, individual fieldwork, course readings and outside readings. in order

### Paper

- Submit as a PDF
- Paper MUST include a bibliography of at least 3 assigned readings, all of which must be cited in the paper
- Paper length requirement is four to six-pages, not including bibliography
- Papers are a means to put into scholarly words what you have learned regarding Celtic Identity and Culture in Scotland and Ireland.
- The topic of the paper **must** address an aspect (or aspects) of both Scotland and Ireland

### Presentation

- At the end of the class/trip students will give a multi-media presentation on their research project
- Presentations are a means to make public (i.e. our group) and demonstrate what you've learned from your research project
- Presentations will be done using PPT (or similar program)
- Presentations can include photos, images, video and audio clips
- Presentations slides MUST be uploaded to course Moodle site for grading

## **Tentative Course Schedule**

<b>Day One</b>	<b>Arrive Edinburgh, Scotland</b> Group Brunch Check into accommodations Walking Tour with Scottish Site Director Welcome Dinner
<b>Day Two</b>	<b>Edinburgh Castle and Arthur's Seat</b> Program orientation and lecture time with Prof. Anderson Visit Edinburgh Castle/ Hike Arthur's Seat Evening Free
<b>Day Three</b>	<b>National Museum of Scotland</b> Student Fieldwork: National Museum of Scotland Afternoon: Free time Group check-in

<b>Day Four</b>	<b>Day Trip to Glasgow</b> Possible Highland Games, Depending Tour of City
<b>Day Five</b>	<b>Travel Day: Edinburgh to Inverness by Bus</b> Bus Trip to Inverness and Scottish Highlands Visit Clava Cairns and Highland Folk Museum Office Hours
<b>Day Six</b>	<b>Loch Ness</b> Boat tour of the loch Visit Fort Augustus
<b>Day Seven</b>	<b>Inverness</b> Itinerary TBD Evening Free
<b>Day Eight</b>	<b>Travel Day: Inverness to Dublin, Ireland by Airplane</b> Welcome Lunch with Irish Site Director Walking Tour of Dublin Evening Free
<b>Day Nine</b>	<b>Kilmainham Gaol</b> Visit Kilmainham Gaol Lunch and Progress Reports at Irish Museum of Modern Art
<b>Day Ten</b>	<b>Lecture and Film</b> Film screening and talk Dublin Fieldwork Evening Free
<b>Day Eleven</b>	<b>Travel Day: Dublin to Galway by Bus</b> Visit Hill of Tara and Loughcrew Lunch at Loughcrew Welcome Dinner in Galway
<b>Day Twelve</b>	<b>Inis Oir and Cliffs of Moher</b>
<b>Day Thirteen</b>	<b>Lecture and Walking Tour</b> Lecture at GMIT Campus Walking Tour of Galway Student Fieldwork Office Hours (outline of research paper/presentation)

**Day Fourteen            Student Fieldwork and Research Presentations**

Student Fieldwork  
Presentation Prep  
Research Presentations  
Farewell Dinner

**Day Fifteen            Depart**

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

**Core Articles**

*Political Thought on Scottish Nationalism*

Ben Jackson, *Political Quarterly*, Jan-Mar 2014, Vol. 85 Issue 1, p50

*Nation States: The Cultures of Irish Nationalism*

Andrew Murphy, *Modern Philosophy*, May 2010, Vol. 108 Issue 4, pE272

**Core Films and Television**

*Michael Collins*

*Braveheart*

**Recommended Books**

*Angela's Ashes*, Frank McCourt

*How the Irish Saved Civilization*, Thomas Cahill

*City of the Tribes*, Walter Macken

*Picts, Gaels, and Scots: Early Historic Scotland*, Sally Foster

*Irish Folk Medicine*, Patrick Logan

**Recommended Articles**

*Northern Exposure: Scottish Nationalism*

The Economist, v415 (n8935) April 25, 2015:12

*North and South of the River: Demythologizing Dublin in Contemporary Irish Film*

Jenny Knell, *Eire-Ireland*, 445, no. 1 (2010):213-241

*A Spiritual Homecoming: Ireland in Contemporary Movies about Irish Americans*  
Alexandra Schein, *Current Objectives of Postgraduate American Studies*, 12, (2011):p.  
(no pagination)

*Blurring Borders: Scottish Cinema in the Twenty-First Century*  
Jonatha Murray, *Journal of British Cinema & Television*. 2012, Vol. 9 Issue 3, p400-418.  
19p.

## **Recommended Films and Television**

### Scottish Films

*Sweet Sixteen*  
*Wilbur wants to Kill Himself*  
*Just Another Sunday*  
*Sunshine on Leith*  
*A History of Scotland* (with Neil Oliver)

### Dublin

*Intermission*  
*Veronica Guerin*  
*The Snapper*  
*Once*

### Western/Galwegian Films

*The Secret of Roan Inish*  
*Into the West*  
*The Gard*

### Irish Films

*Angela's Ashes*  
*The Field*  
*The Crying Game*  
*Killing Bono*  
*The Wind that Shakes the Barley*