An Incident in the Rebellion of 1745 by David Morier
This course will introduce you to the main achievements, themes, and characteristics of Scottish writing from the late-eighteenth century to the present day. We will cover Romanticism, the Enlightenment, Modernism, and the contemporary era. The course will trace the vast transformations undergone in modern Scotland and study how literature has both reacted to and driven those changes. The course includes prose and poetry from the nation’s three languages, Gaelic, Scots (both alongside translations), and English. We will study some of the canonical texts and masterpieces of Scottish literature as well as some neglected works. We will also sample some Scottish delicacies along the way. Fàilte!

Learning objectives

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

Content

- Canonical and lesser-known Scottish texts by men and women
- Material on critical approaches to Scottish writing
- Historical context – detailed information on the main developments of Scottish history

Assessment

A) 15% – Class participation
   Student participation in seminars will be assessed.
B) 35% – 3,500 word essay to be submitted no later than the 19th of March
   The essay must cover two course texts and involve original research. The essay should also include a coherent argument supported by close readings of the texts. All paragraphs should be related to a central theme and adhere to a sound structure. Claims/reading/arguments should be properly developed and supported by relevant quotations from the texts. Relevant critical sources must be utilised and correctly cited.
C) 50% – 2½ hour exam
   Students will sit a 2½ hour closed-book exam which will consist of a text identification component and an essay component. The essay section will test 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.
Set texts

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

NB: Different editions of the texts are also acceptable. All other course texts are in the Norton anthology or will be provided via Blackboard.

Seminar schedule (subject to minor changes)

Week one
Introduction

Week two
Scottish Romanticism: Robert Burns, selected poetry

Week three
Scottish Gothic 1: James Hogg, *Confessions of a Justified Sinner* (1824)

Week four
The Wizard of the North: Walter Scott, ‘The Two Drovers’ (1827)

Week five
The Scottish Enlightenment: David Hume, selected essays

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

Week seven
Scottish Gothic 2: Robert Louis Stevenson: *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (1886)

Week eight
Celticism and the Celtic Revival: Selected texts by James Macpherson, Alexander Carmichael, and Fiona Macleod

Week nine
Scottish Modernism: Selected poetry by Hugh MacDiarmid, and Sorley MacLean

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

Week eleven

Week twelve
Contemporary Scottish Literature: Excerpts from texts by Alasdair Gray, James Kelman, and Irvine Welsh
Suggested further reading

Literature and culture


History