



**JULY IN SCOTLAND – 2019 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
UNIVERSITY OF STIRLING**

Please note: Course availability and course excursions are subject to change

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Session 1 (08 June – 06 July 2019)

ISSU9BE – Brief Encounters: An Introduction to Writing Short Stories

This module has been designed to help students realise their creative potential by producing original and stimulating short fiction. Teaching will consist of specialist workshops conducted by an expert in the field. In addition to engaging with practical aspects of craft and technique, students will learn how to create believable, compelling characters and how to make them live (and die!) on the page. They will also have the opportunity to visit sites of historic importance and natural beauty to inspire their writing.

Excursion(s): The course will culminate in a 'reading party' featuring a guest appearance from a leading Scottish writer.

ISSU9EL – Education and Learning: A Scottish Perspective

The module aims to explore the purposes of education and how this translates into curriculum offerings within the Scottish Education system in the context of the UK. The module will also consider the issues of learners' identities within pre-school, primary, secondary and further education.

Excursion(s): This module normally will include a visit to a local school to observe the Scottish education system in action.

ISSU9BS – Marketing and Branding Scotland

Marketing and Branding Scotland aims to give students a basic understanding of the environment within which business in Scotland operates and how its culture is sold globally and how culture is used to sell goods and services. In addition, the module will provide an introduction to an understanding of what Marketing is, how it can be used, especially in the context of smaller businesses. Themes of place marketing, nation branding and the importance of cultural heritage in the marketing process will also be introduced.

Excursion(s): The instructor will lead an excursion to a Scottish beverage maker / food producer or Scotland's national tourism agency.

ISSU9PU – Photographing the Urban

This module acquaints students with historical to contemporary photographic art practices. It examines specific models and matrixes that define how photographic imaging, techniques and histories have evolved over the last 200 years. It further examines photographic adoption in relation to the representation of the built environment through various artistic genres including painting, media, optics and photography.

Topics examined include: the camera obscura, the grand tour, documentation and creation of photographic albums & topologies, art-photography and the Pictorialist milieu. Underpinning this module is an acquisition of skills in fine art digital photography. Students are to research and create their own photographic portfolios based on lecture material about the history of photography.

Students are required to demonstrate proficiency in using their own digital camera in order to undertake course assignments.

Excursion(s): This module includes a one-day excursion to relevant local sites and a 19th century Scottish mansion, complementing what is learned in the classroom.

Note: digital camera required but not of a high quality. Phone cameras are also appropriate to complete the module.

ISSU9RC – Religion and Conflict

The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the sociological and analytic study of religion, identity, conflict and violence within a local, national and global context. It will examine issues such as nationalism, colonialism, international affairs and the role of those charged with reporting such conflicts. Extensive attention will be paid to the representation of religious conflict in the arts, such as literature and films, alongside a detailed examination in of the violent groups that have arisen as an apparent reaction to religious fundamentalism as a rising narrative of a new cultural war.

Excursion(s): Students will attend a guided visit to Stirling Castle.

ISSU9JO – Royals and Rascals: Contemporary Studies in British Journalism

For centuries, Britain's kings and queens have had a powerful impact on society and on its institutions. Following the rise of celebrity culture, members of the British Royal family and other public figures have used their influence and financial muscle to push back journalists in order to reclaim their privacy. This module is aimed at journalism students and others interested in the media and its relationship with public figures, including Britain's royals, who want to explore fundamental ethical principles and press freedom issues from the vantage point of some of the world's most fascinating news stories. These cases range from Princess Diana's death, for which the Paparazzi were blamed, to Prince Harry's more recent indiscretions, which played out in the digital media.

Excursion (s): Balmoral Castle and a visit to a Scottish newsroom (e.g. BBC). Details to be finalised.

ISSU9SS – Scotland on the Screen

This course is designed to introduce students to key theoretical debates that have emerged in the study of Scotland's relationship with the film and television industries. Important questions we will consider include: Who is responsible for constructing Scotland's identity onscreen? How are Scotland and Scottishness depicted? Why do certain representations dominate over others?

The course will begin by exploring 'Hollywood Scotland', concentrating on the commercial cinematic representation of Scotland and Scottishness found in Mel Gibson's *Braveheart* (1995). This will then be contrasted with a more local construction of Scotland found in the long running television show *Taggart* (ITV, 1983-2011). The final weeks will conclude by considering filmmaking in contemporary Scotland, first through contemplation of the importance of short films in the Scottish context, focusing in particular on the shorts and careers of Lynne Ramsay, Peter Mullan and Morag McKinnon, and second through examination of the Scottish/Danish co-produced 'Advance Party' initiative.

Excursion(s): This module will include a trip to a celebrated screen location in Central Scotland and / or a visit from a Scottish filmmaker.

ISSU9TW – Scottish Wars of Independence c. 1286 – 1371

The module aims to provide students with an understanding of the key events of the period between c.1286 and c.1424, and to allow them to develop an appreciation for the complexities of this pivotal period of Scottish history and how it shaped the kingdom and national identity of the people within it. The themes that it will examine include the Wars of Independence, kingship and dynastic crises, the role of the political and religious elites in Scotland during this era, the development of national culture and identity, critical assessment of key figures (such as John Balliol, Edward I, William Wallace and Robert the Bruce), the role of chronicles and epic poetry in recording the medieval past, and Scotland's relationships with England, France and the Papacy. The module seeks to introduce or build and improve on history-specific skills including primary and secondary source analysis, research, and essay writing, as well as develop transferable analytical, communication and inter-personal skills.

Excursion(s): This module will include a field trip to the iconic Bannockburn Battlefield (with an opportunity to recreate the battle with the centre's new interactive battle simulation technology).

ISSU9RE – Rethinking the City

Rethinking the City provides a general introduction to the design of cities, and how they can be organized and improved, with a particular focus on Scottish New Town design. We consider, for instance, how the role of social and urban planning of Scottish New Town developments has contributed to our thinking about what makes a liveable city. We will also consider the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (2015) and explore the rights of each person to health, education, shelter, and security and how similar goals informed Scottish town planning.

We have structured our course to draw students into conversations on key questions, and to provide opportunities to students to use design-thinking to explore how urban centres are designed, and ways in which we might improve them. Students will research and create their own urban plan to identify and evaluate real city examples based on a class excursion, in-class assignments and reading material. Over the duration of the course, students will also be able to develop an understanding of basic concepts of liveable city design, and will have the opportunity to apply research and critical thinking, photographic skills and social media in their assignments.

Excursion(s): This module includes a one-day excursion to East Kilbride, South Lanarkshire, Scotland's first New Town.

Note: Students will be asked to bring a digital camera for some of their assignments. Phone or notebook cameras are acceptable.

ISSU9CR – Celtic Religion

Develop a critical understanding of the Celtic world in this interdisciplinary programme drawing on archaeological, historical, literary and mythological sources. A unique course that will enable you to develop critical thinking skills in relation to the concept of religion whilst exploring more recent trends within the study of religion such as material religion and implicit religion to develop an in-depth knowledge, understanding and appreciation of Celtic religion, folklore and mythology from Ireland, Scotland and Wales (the Celtic fringe). This course is taught exclusively by a scholar from Ireland who speaks the indigenous language and has training in older forms of the Irish language, although no prior knowledge of the Celtic languages is required or necessary to take and succeed in this course.

From the Classical age to the 21st century, Celts have fascinated and frightened people. This course explores the evolving way Celtic people lived and died, what they believed and why, different ways in which Celtic peoples have been perceived by outsiders, the ways in which Celts have presented themselves to the world and considers why there has been a revival in 21st century of Celtic faiths. In answering these questions you be introduced to the pre-Christian beliefs of the Celtic and Indo-European worlds, to the historical narratives in which such beliefs are embedded, and to the methodology of investigating ancient and medieval belief systems. You will also explore the impact of Christianity in different eras upon the Celtic religions, folklore and mythology through the recurring themes of freedom and independence, especially in relation to the warrior and druid types, signs and symbols and the materiality of the land.

Following an educational field trip to the Scottish Crannog Centre and an ancient stone circle in Aberfeldy you will have the opportunity to consider and respond creatively to the notion of a “sacred landscape” and develop a more in-depth understanding of how legends and mythology become attached to and rooted within sacred sites.

Excursion(s): Course includes one excursion. Details to come.

Session 2 (06 July – 03 August 2019)

ISSU9CJ – Crime and Justice in Scotland: The Criminal in Scottish Society

This module is designed to introduce students to the subject of Criminology through the lens of the Scottish Criminal Justice System. The module begins with an overview of the Scottish Criminal Justice System before examining the major avenues by which the public obtain information about crime – as victims of crime and from the media and official statistics. The module examines the processes that have developed our definitions of crime and the broader social and political context in which this crime occurs. In addition to this, the course provides the opportunity for students to engage in discussion with a Scottish Prison Service Warden, allowing a deeper understanding of punishment in Scotland and the incarceration of offenders.

Excursion(s): This module includes a visit to the Surgeon’s Hall in Edinburgh to discuss the criminal case of Burke and Hare as well as the inspiration for Arthur Conan Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes.

ISSU9GP – Green Politics: Theory and Practice

This introductory module aims to provide students with an understanding of environmental issues and the key issues and dilemmas involved in addressing problems such as climate change and consumer behaviour. We will evaluate the gaps between environmental policy intentions and reality. The module also helps students to navigate the multitude of concepts, ideologies, actors and political settings involved in environmental politics. Key areas this module will focus on include green political theory and sustainable development, the role of green political parties in the UK, corporations and green politics, green consumerism and environmental protest campaigns.

Excursion(s): This module includes a day visit to Whitelee Windfarm in Glasgow, Europe’s largest on-shore windfarm.

ISSU9IR – International Relations

This module explores contemporary issues and debates that shape world politics today. It starts by introducing International Relations (IR) theory before turning to two broad themes that dominate IR: conflict and peace. We will apply these themes to a case study of the Northern Ireland conflict exploring the key political developments and the transition to a post conflict settlement. This module will also include a workshop that examines the use of wall murals to articulate conflict/post-conflict identity in Northern Ireland.

Excursion(s): This module includes a day trip to Edinburgh where we will undertake a historical/political tour of the city as well as a tour of the Scottish Parliament.

ISSU9MV – Monsters and Vampires: The Impact of British Gothic on Contemporary Popular Culture

From sparkly vampires to blockbuster monsters, gothic tropes appear to be all-pervasive in contemporary culture. As Catherine Spooner claims in *Contemporary Gothic* (2006), like ‘a malevolent virus, Gothic narratives have escaped the confines of literature and spread across disciplinary boundaries to infect all kinds of media, from fashion and advertising to the way contemporary events are constructed in mass culture’. What this course aims to do is to introduce students to Gothic’s literary expression in the British nineteenth century, before exploring the many ways in which this dark heritage continues to affect contemporary cultural production.

Focusing on three key texts from the nineteenth century, *Frankenstein* (1818), *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (1886) and *Dracula* (1897), this class will discuss their adaptation, appropriation and influence on popular narratives such as those found in fiction, film, tv, fashion and music video. Some of the contemporary texts we will be drawing upon will be *Twilight* (book & film), *True Blood* (book & tv), *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* (film & tv), *Scream* (film), *Supernatural* (tv), *Marilyn Manson* (music), *Interview with a Vampire* (book & film), *Blade* (film), *Blairwitch Project* (film) etc.

Excursion(s): This course will also include a tour around The Edinburgh Dungeon and a visit to the Gothic theme bar The Jekyll & Hyde. On this excursion we will explore ideas of Gothic tourism, Gothic marketing, and the end of Gothic.

ISSU9TJ – Scottish History: The Jacobites

The module aims to provide students with an understanding of the origins, main features and impact of the Jacobite movement, while placing Scotland’s experience of Jacobitism firmly within its wider British and European context. The themes we will examine include the Stuart monarchy in general and James VII in particular; the nature of the multiple monarchy, looking at relations between Scotland, England and Ireland; Highlands and Lowlands; early modern warfare; and international diplomacy. The module seeks to deepen historical and transferable skills already acquired or to assist students coming to history as a discipline for the first time in acquiring such skills.

Excursion(s): There will also be a field trip to a relevant historical battlefield site at Killiecrankie to enhance the learning experience and to form the basis of one of the assessments (a field trip report) designed to engage students with how history and heritage are conserved.

ISSU9WS – Witchcraft in Early Modern Scotland

Between 1563 and 1736, during years of political and religious turmoil, around 4,000 people were accused of witchcraft in Scotland. This module will examine this significant aspect of Scottish history, looking at the phenomenon of witchcraft belief as part of early-modern culture, as well as its prosecution. Other themes that will be covered include: religion, popular culture, law and order, illness and death, community tensions and gender issues. We will also consider the continuity and development of ideas about magic and witchcraft.

The module aims to provide students with a thorough understanding of the phenomena of witchcraft belief and prosecution in Scotland between the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries. The focus of the module will be mostly on social and cultural themes but an understanding of the political, economic and religious context will be important.

Excursion(s): This module will visit the village of Dunning, Maggie Wall's monument near Dunning, Robert Kirk's burial site and the Fairy Tree at Aberfoyle, all sites related to early modern witchcraft in Scotland.

ISSU9SA – Sculpting Art

This course provides a general introduction to contemporary art history, with examples and inspiration drawn from the University of Stirling's public art and sculpture collections. The course is especially designed for students to explore sculptural representation from figurative artworks at the end of the 20th century to the commencement of Modernism and its relationship to new technologies and different forms of art representation.

To complement an understanding of this transformational period in art history, the course is designed to provide students with a practical approach. In particular, students will be provided with an opportunity to gain knowledge of basic sculptural construction and critique methods.

Students will undertake research and create their own art portfolios based on the class excursion, lecture material and assignments. Portfolio assignments will include the creation of sculptural drawings and/or small models (maquettes) to support student learning of basic sculptural design and concepts.

Over the duration of the course, students will be able to develop a new understanding of the sculptural arts, and will have the opportunity to apply research and critical thinking, photographic and drawing skills and social media in their assignments. Students are also required to demonstrate proficiency in using their own digital camera in order to undertake and participate in online course assignments.

Excursion(s): This module includes a one-day excursion to the Dean Art Gallery in Edinburgh. The artworks by sculptor, Eduardo Paolozzi, will be a particular focus.

Note: Students will be asked to bring a digital camera for some of their assignments. Phone or notebook cameras are acceptable.

ISSU9SC – Scotland the What? Contemporary Scottish Literature & Identity

For the past decade, Scotland's national status has been 'both dangled before us and tantalizingly withheld' (poet Don Paterson). With attention focused on the question of independence, recent debates concerning Scottish culture and identity gain a heightened political charge. Literature has not only reflected but actively shaped such debate. In the year the new Scottish Parliament was

established (1998), Christopher Whyte argued that 'in the absence of elected political authority, the task of representing the nation has been repeatedly devolved to its writers'. But what influence have writers played in recent political change, and to what extent has Scottish culture escaped its own stereotypes?

This course examines the literary and political currents shaping contemporary Scottish identity, introducing students to key twentieth- and twenty-first century texts. We encounter and explain a range of cultural debates concerning language, class, democracy and nationhood, attending to the urgency as well as the complexity of recent Scottish writing.

Excursion: There will be an excursion to Edinburgh, including a visit to the Scottish Parliament building and Scottish Writers' Museum.