

ISSU9TW - Scottish History: The Scottish Wars of Independence

Preliminary Syllabus

MODULE DESCRIPTION / LEARNING OUTCOMES

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.

PROPOSED LECTURE/ TUTORIAL TOPICS SCHEDULE

- *Introduction Class (Meet the Group)*
- Prologue: Foundations of the Kingdom (Scotland to 1286)
- The Crisis of King of Kingship, 1286-1296
- The Rise and Fall of the People's Hero: Wallace and the Guardians, 1296-1305
- Crowning Bruce and the Road to Bannockburn, 1306-1314
- Consolidating Dynasty: Power, Parliament, Piety and Patronage, 1314-1329
- Young King David and the War of the Three Monarchs, 1329-1357
- King David II and Robert the Steward
- Epilogue: The Rise of the Stewarts and the Return of the King, Scotland after the Bruces

MODULE STRUCTURE

Teaching will take place through three contact hours per week with a combination of lectures and group tutorials, which will include working with key primary materials (such as the epic Barbour's *Bruce*) and undertaking group presentations. The module will also include an educational field trip to the recently revamped Battle of Bannockburn centre 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 and brought to life for modern audiences. Attendance at the tutorials and participation in the field trip is compulsory. Additionally, there will be a tutor office hour available each week for further one-on-one tutor support and advice if required.

ASSESSMENT

The overall grade is based on:

- One essay of 1,000 words (worth 55% of the total grade).
- One 500-word field trip report (worth 30% of the total grade).
- Oral performance in tutorials, including an informal group presentation (worth 15% of the total grade).

SUGGESTED GENERAL READING

- Core Texts:
 - Barrow, G.W.S., *Robert the Bruce and the Community of the Realm of Scotland* (3rd ed. 1988, or 4th 2005)
 - Brown, M., *The Wars of Scotland, 1214-1371* (2004)
 - Penman, M., *Robert the Bruce: King of Scots* (2014)

- Other Recommended Texts:
 - Barrow, G.W.S., *Kingship and Unity: Scotland 1000-1306* (1981/2003)
 - Cowan, E.J. (ed.), *The Wallace Book* (2007)
 - Grant, A., *Independence and Nationhood: Scotland 1306-1469* (1984)
 - Nicholson, R., *Scotland - the Later Middle Ages* (1974)
 - Penman, M., *The Scottish Civil War* (2002)
 - Penman, M., *David II* (2004)
 - Prestwich, M., *The Three Edwards: War and State in England, 1272-1377* (1980/1994/2003)