ARTS 310 - ARTS AND IDEAS

INSTRUCTOR: Bobbie Pell
Home Ph. 828-689-4295
Email: bpell@unca.edu

MEETING TIMES: Mondays, 7:00-9:30pm
New Hall 117

TEXTS: Bolded abbreviations indicated in calendar for easy reference.

COURSE DESCRIPTION
In Celtic Arts, we will be exploring two primary artistic arenas, literary arts and music, along with visual arts as exposed in both arenas. For the literary arts, readings and original creative writing will lead us through classical tales of heroes in Celtic mythology and immortals of the Otherworld. The art of storytelling - the oral tradition - transcends time, connecting legends and lore. Rich legends concerning holy grounds, sacred animals, and festival traditions create overarching ties with superstitions and folkloric beliefs.

In studying Celtic music, we will examine primary instrumentation stemming from Bardic traditions, folklore motifs in ballads, and lyric impact compelling contemporary songs/tunes.

Visual art covers broad areas such as smith craft, jewelry, symbols, inter-lacings, and knotwork in illuminated texts proved creative outlets for the ancient Celts.

COURSE GOALS / OBJECTIVES
Students will complete original written works which display their own level of creativity blended with form and structures of Celtic mythology, poetry, and blessings.

When considering Celtic music, students will be exposed to the styles of traditional ballad singers, specific instruments related to Celtic cultures, and the merging of both old-style techniques with original, organic improvisations by contemporary players.

By this course’s completion, students will be able to converse knowledgeably about Celtic traditions, seasonal festivals, beliefs/superstitions surrounding each seasonal event.

While reading Celtic mythology and listening to Celtic music, students will create conclusions using personal aesthetic values and discernment.
COURSE / DEPARTMENTAL OUTCOMES
Students completing the Arts Requirement will be successful in these art areas studied:
A. Articulate the value of the arts studied and its impact on self/others
B. Recognize cultural, historical, spiritual, and/or political aspects
C. Define and articulate the concepts, methods, and organizing principles

WEEKLY READINGS
Weekly readings are to be completed prior to class for active discussion purposes. Laptops are permitted in the classroom yet in-class work will require paper/pen.

IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS
Students will utilize class instruction/readings to create 4 (four) original projects:
* Seasonal Group Project  * Literary Review Dialogues
* Hero’s Journey Myth (12-15 pgs)  * Holy Ground Blessing
Additional in-class activities will offer additional graded opportunities: Animal Transformation, Music Divination, Courtly Love skits, and Labyrinth Walk. No make-ups for in-class grades; only if absence is excused. Short quizzes will be given to check for careful weekly readings.

WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS
Writing assignments should be double-spaced with font size 12, Times New Roman, 1" margins all around). Work not received at the class onset will be credited as “Late” unless prior arrangements are made with instructor. Any late work should be given to Humanities Program Asst. New Hall, Rm 212. Automatic 10-point deduction occurs for late work (exceptions: extreme illness/death in the family). Plus/minus grading used in only Final Grade.

EX. HEADINGS (short papers), upper left-hand corner (cover page not needed)
   NAME
   COURSE
   INSTRUCTOR’S NAME
   DATE
   (Double space once)
   TITLE (centered) followed by another double-space before beginning text

EX. PAGINATION
   Page One - Numeral one centered as footer with period.
ATTENDANCE
Weekly attendance will be required (with an exception to illness or family emergency) in order to successfully complete this course. **EACH STUDENT IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MATERIAL COVERED IN CLASS.** One excused absence. **Class participation** includes engaging actively in discussions, asking thoughtful questions, showing preparedness for nightly topics, and respecting all class comments (whether by instructor or fellow students). Check campus email/alerts for inclement weather issues regarding class cancellations. Should the instructor cancel due to personal/inclement weather issues, students will be notified immediately through the campus email. Any changes to syllabus due dates will be made in class with emails sent as follow-up to anyone absent. Feel free to contact instructor with any questions.

INSTRUCTOR EXPECTATIONS
Every student will complete all assignments to the best of their ability. This course is a blending of engaging lectures and in-depth discussions, workshop activities, and creative writing. Students are encouraged to expand their personal creative efforts through projects and assignments while discerning their artistic interests in offerings from the Celtic culture.

ASSISTANCE
Assistance with any assignments may be arranged with the instructor by appointment. If assistance is needed outside the classroom for any written assignments, students may utilize the Writing Center (Ramsey Library, Room 136). Students may also visit the Office of Academic Accessibility (Ramsey Library, Room 011) for further aid.

**GRADING SCALE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>90-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>80-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>70-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>Below 60</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**GRADING PERCENTAGES**

- Class Participation: 10%
- Literary Arts: 40%
- In-Class/Seasonal Projects: 50%
Aug. 17  
**TOPICS:** History/ Migration of The Ancient Celts  
Celtic Wheel of Seasons  
Choose Seasonal Project Groups  

**READINGS:**  
KCS: Imbolc (45-47), Beltane (135-139)  
Lughnasadh (232-242), Samhain (297-305),  
Solstice (169-171; 351-359), Equinox (71-74; 259-263)

Aug. 24  
**TOPICS:** Celtic Mythology/ Mabinogion / Deities  
Original Myth parameters  
Great Chain of Being / Hero’s Journey  
Planning with Resources for Group Presentation  

**READINGS:**  
WIC: “Rhiannon” (13-42); “Arianhrod and Bloudewedd” (43-73)  
“Gods/ Goddess” sections (per month)

Aug. 31  
**TOPICS:** Seasonal Festivals  

**READINGS:**  
KCS: “The Children of Lir” (342-345)  

DUE: Group Presentations on Festivals  

Sept. 7  
* * NO CLASS: LABOR DAY HOLIDAY * *  

Sept. 14  
**TOPICS:** Heroes: King Arthur / Fionn and the Fianna / Cuchulain  
Myth Writing Tips / Peer Reviews  

**READINGS:**  
KCS: “Finn and the Salmon of Wisdom” (266)  
WIC: “Emer and the Women Who Loved Cuchulain (95-126)  

DUE: Myth outline, scene (1-2pgs)

Sept. 21  
**TOPICS:** Selkie Ballads/ Contemporary Songs  
Special Viewing of “The Secret of Roan Inish”  

**READINGS:**  
KCS: “The Selkie” (215-218)  

DUE: Hero’s journey myth (12-15 pgs)

Sept. 28  
**TOPICS:** Shapeshifters: Sacred Animals  
Animal Transformation (in-class graded)  
Literary Review Dialogues (take-home)  

**READINGS:**  
KCS: “Sacred Animal” sections (per month)  
KCS: “Birth Of Taleisin” (268-271)
[Cerridwen]

WIC: “Macha”(127-133); Morrigu (133-138)

Oct. 5

* FALL BREAK: NO CLASS *

Oct. 12

TOPICS: “CELTIC” Literary Mid-Term
DUE: Literary Review Dialogues

Oct. 19

TOPICS: Ballads: Overview of Ballad Collecting Timeline
Scottish Music Revival of the 50s
Ballad Variants: Twa Sisters / Binnorie / Bonny Swans
SPECIAL PRESENTER: Flora Gammon- Ballads / Singer

Oct. 26

TOPICS: Supernatural Themes: Rev. Robert Kirk
Themes of Otherworld in Lyrics
Ghost Ballads
READINGS: KCS: Faeries (182-196)
KCS: “Janet and Tam Lin (314-318);
“Thomas the Rhymer (153-156)
KCS: “Sounds of the Otherworld” (282-292)

Nov. 2

TOPICS: Contemporary Celtic Music - “Celtic Tides”
Musicians/ Instruments / Themes
Musical Response Worksheet (in-class graded)
READINGS: KCS: “Celtic Storytelling” (335-342)

Nov. 9

TOPICS: Celtic Landscapes / Holy Grounds / Irish Saints
Walking the Labyrinth (in-class graded)
Natural World Ballads
READINGS: KCS “Sacred Grove” sections (per month)
“Holy Ground” sections (per month)
KCS: Enchanted Forest (107-118)

Nov. 16

TOPICS: Celtic Illumination / Interlacings / Knotwork
Books of Kells and Saint Columcille (Columba)
Instrumentals in Celtic Music
READINGS: KCS: Art of the Gods, Art of the Angels (273-282)
DUE: Holy Ground Blessing

Nov. 23

TOPICS: Lady of Shallott (music/myth blends)
Courtly Love Precepts and skits (in-class graded)
Celtic Step Dancing - Riverdance, Lord of the Dance
Ballads: Riddles and Courtship/ Romance Ballads
Comedy Couples
READINGS: KCS: “How Tristan Won Esyllt” (158-159)

Dec. 8 FINALS: Winter Solstice Celebration