

# Learning Agreement & Course Syllabus

## GLC 140 Celtic History and Contemporary Culture

Student: \_\_\_\_\_ Term: FA SP SU Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit hours attempted: 1 2 3 Instructor: Kevin Patton, Ph.D.

THE OFFICIAL COURSE DOCUMENT IS FOUND AT [www.lionden.com/glc140.htm](http://www.lionden.com/glc140.htm)

### SCC Course Description:

Field course with a focus on Celtic political and cultural history from prehistoric to modern times. Experiential approach that combines study tours of various Celtic sites with readings, films, writing assignments, and/or other activities. Specific course objectives, strategies, and evaluation procedures defined in individual learning agreement for each student in consultation with the instructor.

### SCC General Education Objectives:

To develop students' abilities to understand the moral and ethical values of a diverse society and to understand that many courses of action are guided by value judgments about the way things ought to be. Students should be able to make informed decisions through identifying personal values and the values of others and through understanding how such values develop. They should be able to analyze the ethical implications of choices made on the basis of these values.

### GLC 140 Specific Objectives:

Students completing this course will have experiences in a modern Celtic culture and be able to articulate the lessons learned by interaction with that culture (or cultures). Students will explore the political and cultural history of Ireland, Scotland, and/or other Celtic regions and apply that to their travel experience through specific learning activities (described below). Students will express in writing (or other medium) how their travel experiences and other learning experiences in the course challenge or reinforce their personal belief systems and attitudes and the belief systems and attitudes of the student's native culture. Students will observe and record characteristics of contemporary Celtic culture and offer opinion as to what historical and modern events or facts affect those characteristics.



Students should consult the SCC catalog, SCC student handbook, and other official documents of for other policies and procedures related to SCC courses and student expectations.

### **How to Contact the Instructor**

Kevin Patton, SCC Professor of Life Science

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### **Credit One Learning:**

1. Study tour journal
  - a. Typed transcript of a daily journal recorded by the student during the study tour. Standard American English grammar and spelling is expected (except allowance for “poetic license”)
  - b. Journal records activities of each day.
  - c. Journal records general and specific impressions of places, people, and experiences encountered.
  - d. Journal includes reactions of the student in the context of the “valuing/judgment” objectives cited above.
  - e. Where possible, the journal should include words/phrases, concepts, symbols, and behaviors encountered that are foreign to the student’s native culture.
  - f. Journal *may* include illustrations, graphs, samples.
2. Study tour participation
  - a. Student will attend all on-campus preview meetings before the study tour (excused absences may be made up by arrangement with instructor).
  - b. Student will participate in appropriate group activities during the study tour, including guided tours, narrated drives and walks, and other learning activities.

3. Independent learning
  - a. Student will explore one topic related to Celtic culture and history.
  - b. The topic may be explored by reading a group of articles, a book, a film, or other mode of exploration—chosen in consultation with and as approved by the instructor.
  - c. Student will submit a two-page essay (typed, double spaced, 12pt Time font, 1-inch margins) expressing personal reactions to the topic as presented in the medium chosen in (b) above. The context of the essay should be the objectives cited above.
  - d. Instead of (c) above, the student *may* submit evidence of learning in another format or medium such as video, literary expression, oral discussion, etc., with prior approval by the instructor.

**Credit Two Learning:**

4. All of the above learning components, plus the following.
5. Journal Summary
  - a. Student will submit a two-page essay (typed, double spaced, 12pt Time font, 1-inch margins) expressing a thoughtful synthesis and interpretation/conclusion of the study tour journal cited in (1) above. The context of the essay should be the objectives cited above.
  - b. The journal summary may be alternatively presented by the student in the form of another medium (e.g., film, poetry, performance, art) with the prior approval of the instructor.
6. Independent learning
  - a. Student will explore one additional topic related to Celtic culture and history.
  - b. The topic may be explored by reading a group of articles, a book, a film, or other mode of exploration—chosen in consultation with and as approved by the instructor.
  - c. Student will submit a two-page essay (typed, double spaced, 12pt Time font, 1-inch margins) expressing personal reactions to the topic as presented in the medium chosen in (b) above. The context of the essay should be the objectives cited above.
  - d. Instead of (c) above, the student *may* submit evidence of learning in another format or medium such as video, literary expression, oral discussion, etc., with prior approval by the instructor.



The instructor will assess and evaluate all learning components, including tour participation, course participation, and evidence of course requirements in light of the stated course goals and institutional expectations for learning. The instructor will assign a letter grade based on these criteria:

**A** = Students completes all course requirements, most or all of which are done in an exemplary manner\*

**B** = Student completes all course requirements in a satisfactory manner\*

**C** = Student completes most course requirements in a satisfactory manner\*

**D** = Student completes some course requirements in a satisfactory manner\*

**F** = Student fails to satisfactorily\* complete most course requirements

**I** = Student fails to complete the course on time (by one week before grades are due to Registrar)

\* Satisfactory work meets the expectations of average or better-than-average college-level competencies in learning and expression (writing, communication), college-level thinking skills, and diligent work in completing the course goals; exemplary work far exceeds average expectations for college-level learning

## Examples and Suggestions

Based on feedback from previous students, we have found that a list of examples and suggestions of topics and resources such as books and films can help you choose topics and resources that will help you in this course. This listing is **by no means exhaustive**, nor is any of it required -it his here only to spark your own thoughts and ideas.

### Topics

- Ancient Celtic Culture/History
- The “Celtic Tiger” (Ireland) in the Modern European Union
- The Viking Invasions
- Irish Monasteries and the preservation of European Culture
- Christianity and/or Druidism in Celtic lands
- Celtic art and its continuing influence
- The British Empire in Ireland and/or Scotland
- The “Troubles” in Northern Ireland

- Terrorism and the Irish Republic
- The Great Famine in Ireland
- Modern Efforts at Scots Independence
- Important Figures (political, religious, literary, popular, military, etc)
- Important Places (battlefields, castles, natural features, etc)
- The Recent Adoption of the Euro in Ireland
- Folk Culture
- The Role of the Tartan in Scots Culture
- Preservation of Gaelic Language (Irish and/or Scots)
- Catholic and Protestant Interactions
- Irish/Scots Literature and Art
- The role of brewing/distilling in Irish/Scots culture
- Celtic folk tales and fairy tails
- Celtic mythology
- How Irish Literature Portrays Political Ideas

## Books

### Nonfiction

- A Field Guide to the Buildings of Ireland : Illustrating the Smaller Buildings of Town & Countryside
- Gaelic: A Complete Course for Beginners
- Glendalough: A Celtic Pilgrimage
- \*How the Irish Saved Civilization: The Untold Story of Ireland's Heroic Role from the Fall of Rome to the Rise of Medieval Europe
- How the Irish Speak English
- \*Angela's Ashes (Frank McCourt) – memoir of 20<sup>th</sup> Century Ireland
- \*How the Scots Invented the Modern World: The True Story of How Western Europe's Poorest Nation Created Our World and Everything in It
- Paddy's Lament: Ireland, 1846-1847: Prelude to Hatred
- Scotland, A Concise History
- The Art of Jack B. Yeats
- Almost There: The Onward Journey of a Dublin Woman (memoir by Nuala O'Faolain)
- The Course of Irish History
- Confession of Saint Patrick

## Fiction

- Beowulf (new translation by Seamus Heaney)
- Poetry of Robert Burns (Scots)
- Poetry of Keats (Irish)
- \*Poetry of Wm. Butler Yeats (early 20<sup>th</sup> century Irish)
- \*Poetry of Seamus Heaney (modern Irish)
- Trinity (Leon Uris) – Historical fiction of the “troubles” in Northern Ireland
- \*1921 (Morgan Llewellyn) – Fictionalized account of the Easter Rising through the Irish Civil War
- \*The Lion of Ireland (M. Llewellyn) – Fictionalized account of the rise of Brian Boru, the first (and only) to unite Ireland and drive out the Vikings
- Novels by James Joyce (Irish)
- \*Works of Oscar Wilde (Irish; plays, poems, novels, essays)

## Films

- \*Michael Collins – fictionalized account of the man who lead Ireland to freedom after the Easter Rising (stars Liam Neeson)
- \*Waking Ned Devine – quintessential Irish comedy/folklife
- The Quiet Man – John Wayne film shows Irish folk life and countryside in early 20<sup>th</sup> century
- The Commitments – Film about working-class Dubliners forming a R&B/soul band in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century
- \*Braveheart – fictionalized account of William Wallace’s efforts to rid Scotland of the English (stars Mel Gibson)
- \*Rob Roy – fictionalized story of the Scots hero Rob Roy MacGregor (stars Liam Neeson)

NOTE: many of the literary works cited under “books” are also available as film adaptations, audio books, or dramatic readings

## Music

- Irish Folk Music
- Scots Folk Music
- Celtic Music
- \*Riverdance/Lord of the Dance
- \*The Chieftains (contemporary/traditional Celtic)
- The Clancy Brothers (traditional Irish)
- Songs/airs written by Turlough O’Carolan (18<sup>th</sup> century Irish)

\* highly recommended

