

SAMPLE SCOTTISH LITERATURE SYLLABUS

[Survey course taught from 2003-present at the University of Stirling]

SCOTLAND AND EMPIRE

Module Description and Rationale

The Union of the English and the Scottish Parliaments in 1707 was a defining moment in the history of both countries. It could be said to mark the start of the British Imperial project, and Scots were to fare well as explorers, missionaries, engineers, administrators, and businessmen in the furthest reaches of the British Empire for the next 250 years. At the same time, the loss of parliamentary sovereignty sparked a revival of Scottish cultural consciousness and an anxiety about national identity that produced poetry in Scots from Ramsay, Fergusson, and Burns, and the great novels of Sir Walter Scott and James Hogg. Scott's work in particular was to reinvent Scotland in the eyes of its own population, not to mention the thousands of readers in England, Europe, and the North American continent whose vision of Scotland as a romantic land of mountain and flood persists to this day.

But this vision is not without its contradictions, not the least of which was the rise of Central Scotland as a major industrial force at the very moment when the Highlands were being constructed as the home of an older and more organic society; or the development of a proudly 'Scottish' education system which disenfranchised every Gaelic speaker in the land.

Scotland and Empire sets out to explore these issues, to examine the myths and the contradictions and the political, cultural, and economic pressures that have produced some of Scotland's finest writing in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Set against the Scottish context and difficult questions of national and cultural identity, the module will also explore the experience of some of the other cultures whose sense of identity has been shaken by their contact with the centralising confidence of the British Empire and the hegemony of the English language.

The module is divided into three segments, the first of which is called 'Voices from Post-Union Scotland'. Focusing on the period between the Union and the 1832 Reform Bill, this segment examines texts that emerge from and engage with a Scotland adjusting to the Union that was to underpin the Empire.

The second segment, 'Voices from the Imperial Era', focuses on texts from the late nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century, the high noon of the British Empire. This segment examines texts from the period that reflect how different Scottish writers have engaged with issues of Empire.

The third segment, 'Post-Imperial Voices', focuses on recent Scottish texts and texts from the Scottish diaspora—all dealing with problematic questions of place and displacement.

Set Texts

John McGrath, *The Cheviot, the Stag, and the Black Black Oil* (Methuen, 1981)

Imlah and Crawford, eds., *The New Penguin Book of Scottish Verse* (Penguin, 2001)

Walter Scott, *Waverley* (Oxford U.P., 1990)

James Hogg, *The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner* (Stirling/South Carolina edition, Edinburgh U.P., 2001)

R. L. Stevenson, 'The Beach of Falesa' and 'The Ebb-Tide' (in Stevenson, *South Sea Tales* ed., Roslyn Jolly (Oxford World's Classics, 1999)

John Buchan, *Prester John* (module print edition available in Office)

Lewis Grassie Gibbon, *Sunset Song* (Canongate, 1990)
 Alice Munro, *Open Secrets* (Vintage, 1995)
 James Kelman, *The Burn* (Vintage, 1992)
 Liz Lochhead, *Mary, Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off* (Penguin, 1998)
 Module reader, includes material from *Three Scottish Poets: Norman MacCaig, Edwin Morgan and Liz Lochhead*

Recommended Reading

Robert Crawford, *Devolving English Literature* (Oxford U.P., 1992; Edinburgh U.P., 2000)
 Linda Colley, *Britons: Forging the Nation 1707-1837* (Vintage, 1996)
 T. M. Devine, *The Scottish Nation: 1700-2000* (Penguin, 2000)
 Michael Fry, *The Scottish Empire* (Birlinn, 2002)
 Eric Richards, *The Highland Clearances* (Birlinn, 2000)

Lecture List

Lectures will take place on Wednesdays from 11-12am and on Thursdays from 2-3 pm in Pathfoot A96. Lecturing on the module are Suzanne Gilbert (SG), Scott Hames (SH), Adrian Hunter (AH), and Rory Watson (RW). Poetry is taken from *The New Penguin Book of Scottish Verse* (SV) and the module booklet.

Thursday 15 Sept Introductory lecture: Constructions of Scotland SG

1. The Empire and Post-Union Scotland

Wednesday 21 Sept Radical Ploys: John McGrath, *The Cheviot, the Stag, and the Black Black Oil* RW
Reading: McGrath (Methuen); poems in module booklet by Iain Mhic Fhearchair (John MacCodrum) and Donnchadh Bàn Mac an t-Saoir (Duncan Ban Macintyre)

Thursday 22 Sept Pre-Union Scotland / Post-Union Scotland JC
Reading: Scott, *Waverley* (Oxford University Press)
+ From 3-4.30pm: showing of BBC film adaptation of *The Cheviot, the Stag and the Black, Black Oil*, also in A 96

Wednesday 28 Sept Scotland and Britain: Forging the Nation? JC
Reading: Scott, *Waverley*

Thursday 29 Sept Empire and the Clearances: Post-Union Highland Scotland RW
Reading: Poetry by Alasdair MacMhaighstir Alasdair, Donnchadh Bàn Mac an t-Saoir (SV)

Wednesday 5 Oct Cultural Nationalism and 'the paradox of Scottish culture' SG
Reading: Anonymous ballads and songs (SV 160-88, 246-47); poetry by Allan Ramsay, James Thomson, James Macpherson, Robert Fergusson, Robert Burns, Walter Scott, James Hogg (SV and module booklet)

Thursday 6 Oct Post-Union Scotland, the Enlightenment, and *The Private Memoirs and* AH

Confessions of a Justified Sinner
Reading: Hogg (Edinburgh University Press)

2. Voices from the Imperial Era

Wednesday 12 Oct Colony and Empire: Industrial Scotland Jim Smyth (History)
Reading: Devine, *The Scottish Nation*; Fry, *The Scottish Empire*

Thursday 13 Oct Stevenson and the Grand Narrative of Imperialism SH
Reading: R.L. Stevenson, *The Ebb Tide*, 'The Beach of Falesa',
in Stevenson, *Tales of the South Seas* (Oxford World Classics)

Essay One due Monday 17 October, 5 pm

Wednesday 19 Oct Scotland Abroad: The Fruits of the Diaspora SG
Reading: 'Canadian Boat Song' (module booklet);
Iain Mac Mhurchaidh, 'Dèan Cadalan Sàmhach'
('Sleep Softly'); 'Bonny Barbara Allan' (SV)

Thursday 20 Oct Africa, Scotland, and Empire SH
Reading: John Buchan, *Prester John* (Office copy)

Mid-semester Break: Monday 24 October through Friday 28 October

Wednesday 2 Nov In and Out of History: Lewis Grassie Gibbon, *Sunset Song* SH
Reading: Gibbon (Canongate)

Thursday 3 Nov Scots and Scotland: Hugh MacDiarmid and Edwin Muir RW
Reading: Poetry by MacDiarmid and Muir (SV)

Essay Two due Wednesday 9 November, 5 pm

3. Post-Imperial Voices

Wednesday 9 Nov Crossing the Border: Norman MacCaig and Sorley MacLean, RW
Reading: Poetry by MacCaig and MacLean (TSP, SV)

Thursday 10 Nov Settler Narratives: Alice Munro's *Open Secrets* AH
Reading: Munro (Vintage)

Wednesday 16 Nov The Post-Imperial City: James Kelman's *The Burn* SH
Reading: Kelman (Vintage)

Thursday 17 Nov Coming up Buchanan Street: Edwin Morgan and Tom Leonard RW
Reading: Poetry by Morgan and Leonard (TSP, SV)

Wednesday 23 Nov Queens and Quines: Liz Lochhead, *Mary Queen of Scots Got Her Head Chopped Off* SH
Reading: Lochhead (Penguin)

Essay Three due Monday 5 December, 5 pm

Secondary Reading

The following books will introduce you to Stirling's holdings in Scottish literature. They are listed here, without specific preference or priority, as books which students may find useful. Some have been placed on popular loan or in the Reserve Book Room, reserved so that some secondary material on the various texts on this module is equally available to all.

General

- Colley, Linda 1994. *Britons: Forging the Nation 1707 – 1837*, Vintage
- Craig, Cairns, ed. 1987-88. *A History of Scottish Literature*, 4 vols, Aberdeen University Press
- Crawford, Robert 1992. *Devolving English Literature*, Oxford University Press
- Devine, T. M. 1999. *The Scottish Nation 1700–2000*, Penguin
- Fry, Michael 2001. *The Scottish Empire*, Tuckwell/Birlinn
- Gifford, Douglas, et al, eds. 1997. *A History of Scottish Women's Writing*, Edinburgh University Press
- Gifford, Douglas, et al, eds. 2002. *Scottish Literature in English and Scots*, Edinburgh University Press
- Harvie, Christopher 1981. *'No gods and precious few heroes': Scotland 1914-1980*, London: Arnold
- Lynch, Michael 1991. *Scotland: A New History*, London: Century
- Richards, Eric 2000. *The Highland Clearances: People, Landlords and Rural Turmoil*, Birlinn
- Robinson, Mairi, ed. 1985. *The Concise Scots Dictionary*, Aberdeen University Press
- Smith, Vanessa 1998. *Literary Culture and the Pacific*, Cambridge University Press [re Stevenson]
- Watson, Roderick 1984. *The Literature of Scotland*, Basingstoke: Macmillan
- Watson, Roderick, ed. 1995. *The Poetry of Scotland: Gaelic, Scots and English, 1380-1980*, Edinburgh University Press

Eighteenth Century

- Black, Ronald, ed. 2001. *An Lasair: Anthology of 18th Century Gaelic Verse*, Edinburgh: Birlinn
- Brown, Mary Ellen 1984. *Burns and Tradition*, London: Macmillan
- Burns, Martin 1973. *Allan Ramsay: A Study of His Life and Works*
- Burns, Robert 1968. *The Poems and Songs of Robert Burns*, ed. James Kinsley, 3 vols, Oxford: Clarendon
- Crawford, Thomas 1960. *Burns: A Study of the Poems and Songs*, Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd
- Daiches, David 1964. *The Paradox of Scottish Culture: The Eighteenth-century Experience*, London: Oxford University
- Daiches, David 1982. *Robert Fergusson*, Edinburgh: Scottish Academic Press
- Friedman, Albert B. 1961. *The Ballad Revival: Studies in the Influence of Popular on Sophisticated Poetry*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press

- Kinghorn, Alexander Manson; Law, Alexander, eds. 1985. *Poems by Allan Ramsay and Robert Fergusson*, Edinburgh and London: Scottish Academic Press
- Low, Donald A., ed. 1975. *Critical Essays on Robert Burns*, London: Routledge & Kegan Paul
- Low, Donald A., ed. 1993. *The Songs of Robert Burns*, London: Routledge
- McGuirk, Carol 1985. *Robert Burns and the Sentimental Era*, Athens, Georgia: University of Georgia Press
- McIlvanney, Liam 2002. *Burns the Radical: Poetry and Politics in Late Eighteenth-century Scotland*, East Linton: Tuckwell Press
- MacLeod, Angus, ed. 1978. *The Songs of Duncan Ban Macintyre*, Edinburgh: Scottish Academic Press
- Macpherson, James 1996. *The Poems of Ossian, and Related Works*, ed. Howard Gaskill, Edinburgh University Press
- Sambrook, James 1991. *James Thomson, 1700-1748: A Life*, Oxford: Clarendon Press
- Simpson, Kenneth, ed. 1994. *Burns Now*, Edinburgh: Canongate Academic
- Smart, Alastair 1992. *Allan Ramsay: Painter, Essayist and Man of the Enlightenment*, New Haven and London: Yale University Press
- Stafford, Fiona J. 1988. *The Sublime Savage: A Study of James Macpherson and the Poems of Ossian*, Edinburgh University Press
- Thomson, Derick S., ed. 1993. *Gaelic Poetry in the Eighteenth Century: A Bilingual Anthology*, Aberdeen: Association for Scottish Literary Studies

Nineteenth Century

- Alexander, Ian; Hewitt, David 1982. *Scott and His Influence*, Aberdeen: Association for Scottish Literary Studies
- Calder, Jenni 1981. *Stevenson and Victorian Scotland*, Edinburgh University Press
- Crawford, Thomas 1982. *Scott*, Edinburgh: Scottish Academic Press
- Daiches, David 1971. *Sir Walter Scott and His World*, London: Thames & Hudson
- Fielding, Penny 1996. *Writing and Orality: Nationality, Culture and Nineteenth-century Scottish Fiction*, Oxford: Clarendon Press
- Hayden, John O., ed. 1970. *Scott: The Critical Heritage*, London: Routledge & Kegan Paul
- Hewitt, David, ed. 1981. *Scott on Himself*, Edinburgh: Scottish Academic Press
- Hogg, James 1999. *Anecdotes of Sir Walter Scott*, ed. Jill Rubenstein, The Stirling/South Carolina Edition of the Collected Works of James Hogg, Edinburgh University Press
- Hogg, James 1970. *James Hogg: Selected Poems*, ed. Douglas S. Mack, Oxford: Clarendon
- Gifford, Douglas 1976. *James Hogg*, Edinburgh: The Ramsay Head Press
- Mack, Douglas S., et al, eds. The Stirling/South Carolina Edition of the Collected Works of James Hogg, Edinburgh University Press
- Mayhead, Robin 1973. *Walter Scott*, London: Cambridge University Press
- Miller, Karl 2003. *Electric Shepherd: A Likeness of James Hogg*, London: Faber
- Millgate, Jane 1984. *Walter Scott: The Making of the Novelist*, Edinburgh University Press
- Mitchell, Jerome 1987. *Scott, Chaucer, & Medieval Romance*, Lexington, Kentucky: University Press of Kentucky
- Robertson, Fiona 1994. *Legitimate Histories: Scott, Gothic and the Authorities of Fiction*, Oxford: Clarendon
- Simpson, Louis 1962. *James Hogg: A Critical Study*, Edinburgh: Oliver & Boyd

- Sutherland, John 1995. *The Life of Walter Scott: A Critical Biography*, Oxford: Blackwell
 Trumpener, Katie 1997. *Bardic Nationalism: The Romantic Novel and the British Empire*,
 Princeton, New Jersey: Princeton University Press
 Wilt, Judith 1985. *Secret Leaves: The Novels of Walter Scott*, Chicago and London:
 University of Chicago Press

Twentieth Century and Contemporary

- Campbell, Ian 1985. *Lewis Grassie Gibbon*, Edinburgh: Scottish Academic Press
 Christianson, Aileen; Lumsden, Alison, eds. 2000. *Contemporary Scottish Women's Writing*,
 Edinburgh University Press
 Howell, Carol Ann 1998. *Alice Munro*, Manchester University Press
 Kelman, James 1992. *Some recent attacks : essays cultural & political*, Stirling: AK Press
 Leonard, Tom 1984. *Intimate voices: selected work, 1965-1983*, Newcastle upon Tyne:
 Galloping Dog Press
 Leonard, Tom 1995. *Reports from the Present: Selected Work, 1982-94*, London: Cape
 Lochhead, Liz 1984. *Dreaming Frankenstein & Collected Poems*, Edinburgh: Polygon
 MacCaig, Norman 1990. *Collected Poems*, London: Chatto & Windus
 Published in: Paperback. By: Association for Scottish Literary Studies, Glasgow, May 2004.
 Price: £12.50.
 MacDiarmid, Hugh 1978. *Complete Poems of Hugh MacDiarmid, 1920-1976*, ed. Michael
 Grieve and W.R. Aitken, 2 vols, London: Martin Brian & O'Keefe
 MacDiarmid, Hugh 1987. *A Drunk Man Looks at the Thistle*, ed. K. Buthlay, Edinburgh:
 Scottish Academic Press
 McGrath, John 1981. *A Good Night Out: Popular Theatre, Audience, Class and Form*,
 London: Eyre Methuen
 Maclean, Sorley 1991. *From Wood to Ridge: Collected Poems in Gaelic and English*,
 London: Vintage
 Morgan, Edwin 1990. *Collected Poems*, Manchester: Carcanet
 Muir, Edwin 1991. *The Complete Poems of Edwin Muir: An Annotated Edition*, ed. Peter
 Butter, Aberdeen: Association for Scottish Literary Studies
 Palmer McCulloch, Margery 1993. *Edwin Muir: Poet, Critic and Novelist*, Edinburgh
 University Press
 Palmer McCulloch, Margery, ed. 2004. *Modernism and Nationalism: Literature and Society
 in Scotland 1918-1939 [source documents for the Scottish Renaissance]*, Glasgow:
 Association for Scottish Literary Studies
 Ross, Catherine Sheldrick 1992. *Alice Munro: A Double Life*, Toronto: ECW Press
 Smith, Janet Adam. 1979. *John Buchan and His World*, London: Thames & Hudson
 Smith, Janet Adam 1985. *John Buchan: A Biography*, Oxford: Oxford University Press
 Watson, Roderick 1985. *MacDiarmid*, Milton-Keynes: Open University Press

Journals

Scottish Literary Journal (now *Scottish Studies Review* [and now *Scottish Literary Review*])
Studies in Hogg and His World
Journal of Stevenson Studies
Studies in Scottish Literature
 Chapman

The Association for Scottish Literary Studies website contains useful information and links:
<http://www.arts.gla.ac.uk/ScotLit/ASLS/>