

# ARTS 310 - ARTS AND IDEAS

**INSTRUCTOR:** Bobbie Pell  
Home Ph. 828-689-4295

Office: New Hall 120  
Email: [bpell@unca.edu](mailto:bpell@unca.edu)

**MEETING TIMES:** Mondays 6:00-8:30pm

**TEXTS:** Bolded abbreviations indicated in calendar for easy reference.

**(WIC)** Caldecott, Moyra. Women in Celtic Myth. Rochester, VT: Destiny Books, 1988.

**(KCS)** Freeman, Mara. Kindling the Celtic Spirit. NY: HarperSanFrancisco, 2001.

## COURSE DESCRIPTION

1. 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 fiber arts (tartans), smith craft, jewelry, symbols, inter-lacings, and knotwork in illuminated texts proved creative outlets for the ancient Celts.

## 2. 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.

After conducting research in the music arts, specifically the history of ballad collecting, Celtic instrumentation, and influential musicians in the field, students will share their new knowledge in the form of a completed paper and class Powerpoint presentation.

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, can draw conclusions using personal aesthetic values and discernment.

3. **Weekly readings** are to be completed prior to class for discussion purposes. **Concise, in-class writings** will check for student comprehension and create basis for class discussions.

4. Students will utilize class instruction and readings to create original projects:

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| * <b>Seasonal Group Project</b>       | * <b>Reading Journal (6, 1-pg entries)</b>     |
| * <b>Hero's Journey Myth (6-8pgs)</b> | * <b>Musical Arts Research Paper (6-8 pgs)</b> |
| * <b>Holy Ground Blessing</b>         | * <b>Transformation Animal Ballad</b>          |

5. The students will give a **5 -10 minute presentation based on their musical research topic**. This oral presentation will be graded on visual aids and presentation skills. Please practice to

keep within time limits. Specific options of approved topics along with presentation guidelines for usage of Power point will be given.

6. The students will complete an **6-entry reading journal** filled with 1-pg typed entries covering plot summary and personal reflection. These readings will supplement the weekly topics/assignments.

### **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 placed in my campus mailbox (See Humanities Program Asst. Sheryl Donaldson, New Hall, Rm 212).**

Automatic **10-point deduction** occurs for late work (exceptions: extreme illness/death in the family).

Use **MLA** style manual and parenthetical documentation for all paraphrasing, research, and direct quotes for musical research paper; use proper pagination.

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.

Page Two and following: Student's Last Name - Numeral in upper right-hand corner (Last Name-2)

### **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.** Contact the instructor or a fellow classmate about assignments so that you will be prepared for the next class meeting. Class participation includes engaging actively in discussions, asking thoughtful questions, showing preparedness for nightly topic, and respecting all class comments (whether by instructor or fellow students).

### **ASSISTANCE**

Assistance with any assignments may be arranged with the instructor by appointment.

### **GRADING SCALE**

A 90-100  
B 80-89

### **GRADING PERCENTAGES**

Class Participation 10 %  
Reading Journal (6 entries) 20 %

C	70-79	Assignments: Projects	50%
D	60-69	In-Class Queries	20 %
F	Below 60		

**CALENDAR**

<b>WEEK OF</b>	Aug. 25	<p><b>TOPICS:</b> Celtic Wheel of Seasons / The Ancient Celts and Us Ballads (“Mummer’s Dance,” “All Soul’s Night”) Ballads: Twa Sisters / Binnorie / Bonny Swans Child Ballad Arrangement Planning with Resources for Group Presentation</p> <p><b>READINGS: KCS:</b> Imbolc (45-47), Beltane (135-139) Lughnasadh (232-242), Samhain (297-305), Solstice (169-171; 351-359), Equinox (71-74; 259-263)</p>
	Sept. 1	<b>NO CLASS - Labor Day Holiday</b>
	Sept. 8	<p><b>TOPICS:</b> Celtic Mythology/<u>Mabinogion</u> Great Chain of Being / Hero’s Journey</p> <p><b>READINGS: WIC:</b> “Rhiannon” (13-42) <b>KCS:</b> “The Children of Lir” (342-345)</p>
	Sept. 15	<p><b>TOPICS:</b> Seasonal Festivals / Deities</p> <p><b>READINGS: KCS:</b> “Gods/ Goddess” sections (per month) <b>WIC:</b> “Arianhrod and Bludewedd” (43-73)</p> <p><b>DUE:</b> Group Presentations on Festivals</p>
	Sept. 22	<p><b>TOPICS:</b> Transformations / Shapeshifting in Celtic Myth Heroes: Fionn and the Fianna / Cuchulain/ Arthur</p> <p><b>READINGS: KCS:</b> “Hospitality of Cuanna’s House” (26-30) <b>WIC:</b> “Macha”(127-133); Morrighu (133-138) <b>KCS:</b> “Birth Of Taleisin” (268-271) [Cerridwen]</p> <p><b>DUE:</b> Reading Journal (3 entries)</p>
	Sept. 29	<p><b>TOPICS:</b> Sacred Animals / Ballad parameters</p> <p><b>READINGS: KCS:</b> “Sacred Animal” sections (per month)</p> <p><b>SPECIAL PRESENTATION:</b> David Novak/Connie Regan-Blake</p> <p><b>DUE:</b> Hero’s journey myth (6-8 pgs)</p>
	Oct. 6	<p><b>TOPICS:</b> Selkie Ballads/ Contemporary Songs</p> <p><b>SPECIAL VIEWING:</b> “The Secret of Roan Inish”</p>
		<p><b>* FALL BREAK : OCT. 13 - NO CLASS *</b></p>
	Oct. 20	<p><b>TOPICS:</b> Scottish Music Revival of the 50s</p> <p><b>SPECIAL PRESENTER:</b> <b>Flora Gammon-</b> Ballads / Singer</p>

