

ARTS 310 - ARTS AND IDEAS

INSTRUCTOR: Bobbie Pell
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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.

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.

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

- * **Seasonal Group Project**
- * **Reading Journal (6, 1-pg entries)**
- * **Hero's Journey Myth (7-10 pgs)**
- * **Musical Arts Research Paper (6-8 pgs)**
- * **Holy Ground Blessing**
- * **Transformation Animal Ballad**

5. The students will complete a **6-entry reading journal** filled with 1-pg typed entries covering plot summary and personal reflection. These readings will supplement the weekly topics and additional reading 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 topics, 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
C	70-79
D	60-69
F	Below 60

GRADING PERCENTAGES

Class Participation	15 %
Reading Journal (6 entries)	25 %
Assignments: Projects	60 %

CALENDAR

WEEK OF Jan 26

TOPICS: History/ Migration of The Ancient Celts
Celtic Wheel of Seasons /
Ballads (“Mummer’s Dance,” “All Soul’s Night”)
Planning with Resources for Group Presentation
READINGS: KCS: Imbolc (45-47), Beltane (135-139)
Lughnasadh (232-242), Samhain (297-305),
Solstice (169-171; 351-359),
Equinox (71-74; 259-263)

Feb. 2 **TOPICS:** Celtic Mythology/Mabinogion
Great Chain of Being / Hero’s Journey
READINGS: WIC: “Rhiannon” (13-42); “Arianhrod and
Bloudewedd” (43-73)
KCS: “The Children of Lir” (342-345)

Feb. 9 **TOPICS:** Seasonal Festivals / Deities / Original Myth parameters
READINGS: KCS: “Gods/ Goddess” sections (per month)
DUE: Group Presentations on Festivals

Feb. 16 **TOPICS:** Transformations / Shapeshifting in Celtic Myth
Heroes: King Arthur / Fionn and the Fianna / Cuchulain
READINGS: KCS: “Hospitality of Cuanna’s House” (26-30)
WIC: “Macha”(127-133); Morrighu (133-138)
KCS: “Birth Of Taleisin” (268-271) [Cerridwen]

Feb. 23 **TOPICS:** Journal Stories - Themes / Implications
Sacred Animals / Ballad structure / parameters
READINGS: KCS: “Sacred Animal” sections (per month)
DUE: Reading Journal (3 entries)

March 2 **TOPICS:** Selkie Ballads/ Contemporary Songs
SPECIAL VIEWING: “The Secret of Roan Inish”
DUE: Hero’s journey myth (7 -10 pgs)

* **SPRING BREAK : March 9 - NO CLASS** *

March 16 **TOPICS:** Ballads: Twa Sisters / Binnorie / Bonny Swans
Child Ballad Arrangement
Scottish Music Revival of the 50s
SPECIAL PRESENTER: Flora Gammon- Ballads / Singer
DUE: Transformation Animal Ballad

- March 23 **TOPICS:** Celtic Spirituality: Saints / Rev. Robert Kirk
Otherworldly Music / Reincarnation
READINGS: KCS: Faeries (182-196)
 KCS: “Janet and Tam Lin (314-318);
 “Thomas the Rhymer (153-156)
 “Sounds of the Otherworld” (282-292)
WIC: “Three Etains” (p.73-94)
- March 30 **TOPICS:** Celtic Music - The Masters and Their Craft
 Overview of Musicians/ Instruments / Themes
DUE: Research Paper: Musical Arts (6-8 pgs)
- April 6 **TOPICS:** Celtic Landscapes / Holy Grounds / Ogham
READINGS: KCS “Sacred Grove” sections (per month)
 “Holy Ground” sections (per month)
- April 13 **TOPICS:** Scottish Tartans / Waulking Songs
 Celtic Illumination / Interlacings / Knotwork
SPECIAL PRESENTER: Matt Newsome - Tartans
READINGS: KCS: Art of the Gods, Art of the Angels (273-282)
DUE: Holy Ground Blessing
- April 20 **TOPICS:** Journal Stories - Themes / Implications
 Fated Lovers and Courtly Love
READINGS: KCS: “How Tristan Won Esyllt” (158-159)
DUE: Reading Journal (3 entries)
- April 27 **TOPICS: Celtic Dancing - Riverdance, Lord of the Dance**
 Contemporary Uses of Celtic Music
SPECIAL PRESENTER: Lori Helms, Fiber Art: Fleece to Finish
- May 4 **Beltane Celebration!**
LAST CLASS

