

BRITISH (& IRISH) FOLKLORE AND MYTHOLOGY

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PLC 458, 346-1496

TTh 8:30-9:50, Chapman 204
Off.Hrs. T3:30-5:30, Th10-11 & by appt.

This course traces ethnicity, cultural interaction, and forms of folkloristic expression in the British Isles and Ireland. Britain and Ireland possess a complex cultural history. Beginning with the prehistoric Celts, we will trace interactions and identities of historically documented base cultures in the region, especially as their cultural legacies have endured. The course focuses on (1) deep structures of myth, belief, and worldview from the past; and (2) persisting traditions and cultural practices. We examine such forms of folklore as myths, stories, material culture, worship, ritual, belief, music, song, dance, drama, and custom. We will consider British folklore up to the present day in the context of community & individual values and arts.

BOOKS: B. Cunliffe, *The Celts*; J. Synge, *Aran Islands*; J. Sawyers, *Celtic Music*; CD *Dangerous Examples*; Packet, Copy Shop, 539 E. 13th, 485-6253. **Grads (& recommended):** T.Kinsella, *The Tain*; D.Dugaw, *Warrior Women & Popular Balladry*

UGRAD. WORK: Midterm (25%); Final Essay (25%); Reading Journal (25%); Part.Paper (25%)

GRAD.WORK: Midterm Exam (30%); Reading Journal & Participation (30%); Final Project (40%).

WK 1 (3/31): Britain & Its Peoples: A Syncretic Confluence of Worlds & Traditions

T: Introduction: Books; the Course; Folklore, Mythology, & Prehistoric/Historic Britain & Ireland; Mythic Figures & Narratives: *Cuchulainn*

Th: Underpinnings: Materials, Peoples, Languages Arts, & Cosmos (Cunliffe, *Celts*, 1-98) (**BRING PHOTO**)

Terms: folklore, mythology, Goidhelic & Brythonic Celts, filid, *Táin*, CuChulainn, Medb, Ulster Cycle, La Tène Culture, the Morrigan, Triple Goddess, 3 Worlds

WK 2 (4/7): Celtic Storytelling: Mythic Forms & Matter; Themes, Figures & Stories

T: Archaeology & Sensibility—Circularity, Correspondence, Opposition, & Syncretic Adaptations—Cunliffe, 99-150; *Cerridwen & the Birth of Taliesin*; *Bran & Branwen*; **Grads**—Kinsella, 1-98) **Note: STUDY GUIDE & GLOSSARY in PACKET (133-140)**

Th: Lewis Spence, "Celtic Spells & Charms" (packet pp.12-19); "Tam Lin" variants & notes (pckt 20-32)

Terms: druids, St. Patrick, Columba/Columcille, Cerridwen, Bran, Branwen; Mabinogion, etiological tale, tradition, shapeshifting, syncretism, cultural reinterpretation, Book of Invasions, Tuatha De Danann, Sidh

WK 3 (4/14): The Celtic Past as Present: Folklore in Context

T: John Synge, *The Aran Islands*, "Introduction," vii-liii; 3-76; **Grads**—Kinsella, 100-253

Th: John Synge, *The Aran Islands* (77-136)

Terms: Picts, magic, custom, ballad, fith-fath, evil eye, Aran Islands, diachronic & synchronic study, motif, convention, material culture, curagh, pampooties, Gaelic, Pat Dirane, dun, Inishmaan, Old Mourteen

WK 4 (4/21): Traditional Tales: Syncretism, Culture, & Oral Narrative Traditions & History

T: Synge, *Aran Islands*; Scottish Folktales, (Lowlands & Highlands; wondertales & hero tales; narrative traditions) (pckt, 34-65) **Note: GLOSSARY OF SCOTTISH TERMS in PACKET (p.33).**

Th: Scottish Folktales (Lowlands & Highlands; legends & history) (pckt, pp.66-72)

Terms: folktale, wondertale, motif, taletype, variant, lowlands/highlands, hero tale, supernatural tale, legend,

WK 5 (4/28): Traditional Tales: Legends & Supernatural Topics & Beliefs

T: *MIDTERM EXAM*****

Th: Folktales (jokes, fables, & fairylore)—pckt, 73-84; **Grads**—T.Green, “folktale” & “magic” (**Canvas**)

Terms: legend, memorate, jest, animal fable

WK 6 (5/5): Celtic, Anglo-Saxon, and Norman Strands—Syncretic Beliefs & Behaviors

T: Legends & Holy Places & Times—St. Frideswide (pckt 85-93); RStewart, *Celtic Gods, Celtic Goddesses*—93-113 (**Canvas**) ; **Grads**—F. Graziano on Popular Saints (**Canvas**)

Th: British Music: Roots, Instruments, & Tunes—Sawyers, 1-52 and 87-107

Terms: Bride/Bridget, custom, pilgrimage, holy well, magic–homeopath./synpath., Brian Boru harp, O Carolan

WK 7 (5/12): Folk Music, Ballad, & Song: Anglo-Celtic Traditions

T: British Music: Roots, Instruments, & Tunes—Sawyers, 53-144; Songs & Ballads—145-88; **Grads**—Dugaw, *Warrior Women*, xi-64 *****UGRAD PARTICIPATION PAPER DUE*****

Th: British Music: Ballad Traditions—“Trad/Child” Ballads pckt, 96-104 **Note: GLOSSARY (94-95)**

Terms: ornamentation, pibroch, Uilleann pipes, ceilidh, Fenian lays, sean nos, waulking songs, mouth music

WK 8 (5/19): Songs and Communities: Ballad Traditions, Modes of Dissemination, & Styles

T: British Music: Orality & Print—Female Warrior ballads—pckt, 105-112; *Dangerous Examples* CD; “Heroines Gritty & Tender, &c.” (**Canvas**); **Grads**—Dugaw, 65-117

Th: British Music: Orality & Print—“Heroines Gritty & Tender, &c.” (**Canvas**); **Grads**—Dugaw, 121-142

Terms: trad.ballad, bs. ballad, convention, broadside, female warrior ballad, tradition, F.J. Child, Walter Scott

WK 9 (5/26): Music & Dance Traditions, World, & Worldview

T: Song & Dance Traditions—Masks & Ceremonial dancing—Rippon, 5-49 (**Canvas**)

Th: Social Dancing & Community Traditions—Rippon, 50-80 (**Canvas**); pckt, 114-118

Terms: ceremonial dance, calendar custom, processional morris, Cotswold morris, sword dance, hobby horse, horn dance, social dancing, country dances, step dancing

WK 10 (6/2): Festivals, Masking, Drama, & Dance: Morris Dancing & Mumming

T: Dancing & Folk Drama: Mumming—pckt, 119-132

Th: Mumming & other Calendar Customs—pckt, 119-132 *****UGrad FINAL ESSAY DUE*****

Terms: mumming, mumming plays, hero-combat play, wooing play