FOLKLORE AND MYTHOLOGY OF THE BRITISH ISLES (FLR 483/; FLR 583)

Dr. D. Dugaw, dugaw@uoregon.edu
PLC 458, 346-1496
TR 10:00-11:20, Lokey 176
Off.Hrs. W 2:00-5:00, & by appt.

This course traces ethnicity, cultural interaction, and forms of folkloristic expression in the British Isles. 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 will 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.


UGRAD. WORK: Midterm (25%); Take-Home Final (25%); 19 In-Class Essays (25%); Part.Paper (25%)
GRAD.WORK: 2 Midterm Essays (30%); 19 In-Class Essays & Participation (30%); Final Project (40%)

WK 1 (1/4): Britain & Its Peoples: A Syncretic Confluence of Worlds & Traditions

T: Introduction: The Books; the Course; Folklore, Mythology, & Prehistoric/Historic Britain & Ireland

R: Celtic Underpinnings: Materials, Peoples, Arts, & Storytelling (Stewart, Celtic Gods, pp.9-92) (BRING) (PHOTO)

Terms: folklore, mythology, Goidelic & Brythonic Celts, Sulis, filid, Bran/Bendigeid Vran, CuChulainn, the Morrigan, Mabinogion, etiological tale, Cernunnos, Triple Goddess, Three Worlds

WK 2 (1/11): Celtic Storytelling: Mythic Forms & Matter; Themes, Figures & Stories

T: Celtic Archaeology & Sensibility—Circularity,Correspondence, Opposition, & Syncretic Adaptations—Stewart, pp.93-153 (Note: Book of Invasions, 126-37 & Mabinogion, 141-53) Grads—Gantz, pp.1-106)

R: Lewis Spence, "Celtic Spells & Charms" (packet pp.11-18); "Tam Lin" variants & notes (pckt pp.19-31);

Terms: Cerridwen, Taliesin Brighid/Bride, St. Brigid, Mabon/(Mapon)/Oenghus, Lugh, the Daghdha, tradition, shapeshifting, syncretism, cultural reinterpretation, Book of Invasions, Tuatha De Danann, Sidh

WK 3 (1/18): The Celtic Past as Present: Folklore in Context


R: John Synge, The Aran Islands; Grads—Gantz, 106-87

Terms: Picts, magic, custom, ballad, fith-fath, evil eye, Aran Islands, diachronic & synchronic study, motif, convention, material culture, curagh, pampooties, Gaelic, Pat Dirane, incident of the faithful wife, a dun, Inishmaan, Old Moureteen

WK 4 (1/25): Traditional Tales: Syncretism, Culture, & Oral Narrative Traditions & History

T: Synge, Aran Islands; Scottish Folktales, (Lowlands & Highlands; wondertales & hero tales; narrative traditions) (pckt, pp.33-69) Note: GLOSSARY OF SCOTTISH TERMS in PACKET (p.32).
R: Scottish Folktales (Lowlands & Highlands; legends & history) (pckt, pp.70-76)

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

WK 5 (2/1): Traditional Tales: Legends & Supernatural Topics & Beliefs

T: <***MIDTERM EXAM***> Note: EXAM STUDY GUIDE & GLOSSARY in PACKET (pp. 141-148)

R: Scottish Folktales (jokes, fables, & fairylore)—pckt, pp.77-88

Terms: legend, memorate, jest, animal fable

WK 6 (2/8): Celtic, Anglo-Saxon, and Norman Strands—Beliefs & Behaviors

T: Legends & Holy Places & Times—St. Frideswide, Oddington Church, Eccles Wakes, &c. (pckt pp.89-101)

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

Terms: custom, pilgrimage, holy well, magic (homeopathic/sympathetic), Brian Boru harp, O Carolan

WK 7 (2/15): Folk Music, Ballad, & Song: Anglo-Celtic Traditions

T: British Music: Roots, Instruments, & Tunes--Sawyers, pp. 53-144

R: British Music: Songs & Ballads--Sawyers, pp.145-88

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

WK 8 (2/22): Songs and Communities: Ballad Traditions & Styles

T: British Music: Ballad Traditions—“Trad/Child” Ballads pckt, pp.102-13 Note: GLOSSARY (pp.102-3)

R: Broadside Ballads & the Female Warrior ballad—pckt, pp.114-20; FWSite@ http://edbaby.com/dugaw

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

WK 9 (3/1): Music & Dance Traditions, World, & Worldview

T: Song & Dance Traditions—pckt, pp.122-25; Masks & Ceremonial dancing—Rippon, pp.5-49 BBOARD

R: Social Dancing & Community Traditions—Rippon, pp.50-80 BBOARD; Durham Dancers, pckt, p.126

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

WK 10 (3/8): Festivals, Masking, Drama, & Dance: Morris Dancing & Mumming

T: Dancing & Folk Drama: Mumming—pckt, pp.127-38

R: Mumming & other Calendar Customs—pckt, pp.139-40

***PARTICIPATION PAPER DUE***

***EXAM DUE 1:00 Mon. 3/14***