

The University of Western Ontario
Department of History
2016-2017

HISTORY 3423G (001) UW

NORTH OF THE WALL: SCOTLAND FROM FOUNDATIONS TO 1603.

Monday, winter term, 10.30 a.m. – 12.30 p.m.
Room: Weldon Library, 257.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION AND OBJECTIVES

The outcome of the Scottish referendum on independence in 2014 (45% in favour, 55% against) and the recent 2015 election to the British parliament where the Scottish National Party took 56 Of 59 Scottish seats, sufficiently demonstrate the current strength of Scottish nationalism. The aim of this course is to investigate the creation of a sense of Scottish identity, from its earliest beginnings up to the union of the crowns of Scotland and England in 1603. Within a broad chronological framework, a number of topics will be investigated. For example, to what extent is the Scottish identity rooted in geography or race? What was the rôle of church and crown in bringing disparate peoples together? Is it true to say that “Scotland was born fighting”? Is it helpful to view the kingdom as culturally split between Highlands and Lowlands? How did urban and rural life develop in the mediaeval and early modern periods? Has the mythology attached to well-known figures in Scottish History such as Saint Margaret, William Wallace and Mary, Queen of Scots, facilitated or impeded our understanding of Scottish identity?

The class will meet once a week for two hours and class sessions will include both lectures and seminars. We shall cover much material in class that is not available in the class texts; regular attendance is required and will be logged frequently.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students will come to understand that Scotland, as has been the case with Canada, was not a smaller version of its larger neighbour to the south. Its social and cultural development was distinct from that of England. Successful students will gain from the course a firm idea of the Scottish geography which helped to shape the Scottish past. They will master the skills necessary to interpret genealogical charts and thus to understand the frequent succession crises which beset the Scottish monarchy. Primary sources drawn from a document book will be assigned each week; student analytical skills will be strengthened and an acquaintance made with the older Scottish language.

By the end of the course, students will have honed their writing skills through the production of a 2,500 word essay with a clearly defined line of argument. Each student will be expected to work with other students on a specific seminar topic and to participate in the presentation of findings to the rest of the class, and to discuss assigned seminar materials.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Students are required to write one test (to be held in class time: see lecture schedule), an approximately 2500 word essay and a final examination. Both the test and the final exam will include questions based on lectures, prescribed texts and seminar readings and discussions. The final examination will cover the work of the whole course. Grades will be calculated as follows:

Seminar:	25%: 10% for personal presentation and 15% for general participation, which involves attending class regularly and contributing to discussion.
Test:	20%
Essay:	25%
Final exam:	30%

NOTES TO STUDENTS:

1. Please note that Department policy is that essays should be submitted in **class**.
2. The final grade is calculated as described in the **COURSE REQUIREMENTS** section. All sections of the course must be completed in order to gain a pass.
3. If you miss a test or exam due to illness or provable personal crisis, **you must contact the instructor as soon as possible**. Please read the accompanying information on faculty policy regarding absences and missed tests and exams **very carefully**. Accommodation on medical grounds can in most cases **only** be granted if supported by a **University of Western Ontario Student Medical Certificate**. This form can be accessed at the following website: https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_document.pdf or be picked up at the Academic Counselling Office in the student's home faculty. Further details on this policy can be found at the following website: <http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medical.pdf>
4. A copy of the faculty of Social Science policy on Plagiarism has been attached to this syllabus. Students who violate these guidelines can expect to incur the full weight of the penalties outlined therein. The University of Western Ontario uses software for plagiarism checking. Students may be required to submit their written work in electronic form for plagiarism checking.

Office hours will be announced during the first class; students are encouraged to discuss any aspect of the course with the instructor.

PRESCRIBED TEXTS

Michael Lynch, *Scotland: A New History* (Hopefully a course package of relevant sections will be available from Custom Course Office).

Louise Yeoman, *Reportage Scotland: Scottish history in the voices of those who were there* (Luath press, 2000). This can be purchased from the Book Store.