

ARTH 399: Celtic Art and the Legacy of the Celts

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Office Hours: W 6-7pm and by appointment

Term: Fall 2013
Time: W 7:20-10:00pm
Location: Robinson Hall B220

Description and Goals

Discover the mysticism and magic of the Druids; explore the heroic military tactics of Celtic Warriors; learn the meanings behind the pantheon of Celtic gods and goddesses and how their influence spread to the arts, literature, and even codes of law of the Celts. This course surveys the history and legacy of the Celtic Empire, beginning with Greek historical accounts from the 6th Century BC through the rise of Christianity during the medieval period in Europe. We will begin by tracing the Celtic presence from its origins along the Rhine to its spread to the farthest reaches of Asia and Europe from Turkey to Ireland. Following the decline of the Celts, we will explore their rich artistic legacy: evident in illuminated manuscripts, detailed metalwork, and stone carvings throughout the British Isles, Ireland, and France.

Texts and Readings

There is only one required text for this course as well as numerous articles and book chapters available in Blackboard and Jstor. The required text is cutting edge, comprehensive, and urges the critical thinking about the Celtic period that I hope you will be able to appreciate. I used the recommended texts when I taught this course in the past and I highly recommend them, but they are all out of print or difficult to obtain from the publishers at this time. We will read portions of those texts throughout the course.

REQUIRED (available at the campus bookstore):

1) Duncan Garrow and Chris Gosden. Technologies of Enchantment? Exploring Celtic Art: 400 BC to AD 100. Oxford University Press. ISBN 978-0199548064

RECOMMENDED (portions loaded onto Blackboard):

1) Myles Dillon and Nora Chadwick. The Celtic Realms. Castle Books 2006. ISBN 978-0785816768

2) Green, Miranda. Celtic Art. Sterling Publishers 1997. ISBN 978-0806903132

3) Ellis, Peter Berresford. The Celts: A History, Perseus, 2004. ISBN: 9780786712113

4) Lloyd and Jennifer Laing. The Art of the Celts. Thames and Hudson Ltd. (World of Art Series), 1992. ISBN 0-500-20256-7

5) Rampolla, A Pocket Guide to Writing History. Bedford 2007. ISBN 978-0312446734

Any edition of this text is fine. I recommend it for its advice on how to come up with paper topics, research them, and then properly cite your sources.

Assignments and Grading

The bulk of your grade will be determined by your performance on the (cumulative) final exam and the research paper. There will be two quizzes: one quiz midway through the class and one before the final exam to make sure you are following the chronology, terms, and themes of the course.

For the research paper you will need to develop and execute an original thesis related to a theme from class.

Here is how your grade will be calculated:

2 Quizzes- 15% each	Final Exam- 20%
Group Discussions- 10%	Research paper draft- 10%
Participation/Attendance- 10%	Research paper (8-10 pages)- 20%
Optional extra credit- 5%	

Quizzes

Quizzes will consist of ten multiple choice questions and two short answer responses. Bluebooks are not necessary.

Final Exam

The exam will be a combination of multiple choice questions and short answer responses. In addition, you will have to write two brief essays chosen from a list of topics. Bluebooks are required.

Class Policies

Participation/Attendance- This class meets only once per week, therefore if you miss even one class period, you have in essence missed an entire week's worth of material. Page 35 of the Mason catalog states: "Students are expected to attend class periods of the courses for which they register. In-class participation is important not only to the individual student, but also the class as a whole. Because class participation may be a factor in grading, instructors may use absence, tardiness, or early departure as de facto evidence of nonparticipation." I will allow you to miss one class period this semester without penalty. All subsequent absences should be accompanied by a doctor note or other acceptable documentation.

Eating/Drinking- Beverages are fine, but please, no eating in class. I will allow a five to ten minute break in the middle of class and you are welcome to snack at that time, but eating during the rest of the class period can be distracting and disruptive.

Cellphones/Computers- Please turn your cellphone off before class. If you choose to bring a computer to class, please sit in the front two rows of the classroom. If you spend the class time focused on your computer screen and I suspect you are not following the lecture, I may speak to you privately and deduct points from your participation grade.

Disability Assistance- Mason has a wonderful Office of Disability Resources, and if you have a documentable learning disability, I urge you to pay the ODS a visit early in the semester. I am happy to work with you to accommodate your needs, but I will need proof from the ODS.

Writing Center/Academic Workshops- If you need some assistance in writing your research paper or would like to attend study skills workshops, please do not hesitate to take advantage of the resources on campus. The Writing Center is in Robinson Hall A room 114. Academic Workshop schedules can be found in Learning Services within Counseling and Psychological Services on the 3rd floor of SUB I. You are always welcome to make an appointment with me to go over your progress in class or request assistance with your papers: I'm here to help.

Office Hours- As some of you may know, I am also a Learning Specialist in Learning Services. My Wednesday 5-6pm hour is for class concerns only. I am also available by appointment other evenings of the week.

Honor Code

Abiding by the Mason Honor Code is essential if you plan on passing this course. The Honor Code, as stated on page 30 of the catalog:

*"To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code: **Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.**"*

Extra Credit

See one of the following Irish performances below and write a one page synopsis and review of the event. Due the last day of class of the semester.

Mason Center for the Arts

<http://cfa.gmu.edu/>

Solas Nua

<http://www.solasnua.org/>

(attend any event)

The Keegan Theatre

<http://www.keegantheatre.com/index.html>

Class Schedule and Readings

WEEK 1, AUGUST 28 – Introduction

WEEK 2, SEPTEMBER 4 – The Origins and Evidence for the Early Celtic Empire

Garrow & Gosden: Chapter 2: But is it Art? Past and Present Approaches to Celtic Art
Chapter 3: The Database and Our Methodology

Blackboard: Celtic Realms: Chapters 1 and 2 (we'll keep discussing this through next week)

WEEK 3, SEPTEMBER 11 – The Celts and the Mediterranean World

Garrow & Gosden: Chapter 1: People and Materials in the Iron Age and Early Roman Period
Chapter 4: Making Materials

Blackboard: Green: Chapter 1

WEEK 4, SEPTEMBER 18 – Celtic Germany and the Netherlands

Garrow & Gosden: Chapter 5: Artefactual Times: Swords, Torcs, and Coins
Chapter 6: Hoards

Blackboard: Green: Chapter 3

WEEK 5 SEPTEMBER 25 – Celtic France

Blackboard: Laing: La Tene Art (we will continue to use this next week)

WEEK 6, OCTOBER 2 – **QUIZ #1**; Celtic France, continued.

JSTOR (GMU Library Databases):

Megaw, J. *Style and Style Groupings in Continental Early La Tene Art*. *World Archaeology*, Vol. 3, No. 3, Art and Design (Feb., 1972), pp. 276-292 Stable URL:<http://www.jstor.org/stable/124013>

WEEK 7, OCTOBER 9 – Celtic Britain: England, Wales, and Scotland

Garrow & Gosden: Chapter 7: Burials
Chapter 8: Settlements

Blackboard: Laing: Scotland, England, Wales, Ireland (we'll keep using this next week)

WEEK 8, OCTOBER 16 – Celtic Britain and Ireland

Blackboard: Celtic Realms – Chapter 5
Green – Chapter 4

WEEK 9, OCTOBER 23 – **RESEARCH PAPER DRAFT DUE**; Celtic Ireland, continued.

Blackboard: Green – Chapter 5
Celtic Realms – Chapters 2 and 4

WEEK 10, OCTOBER 30 – Celtic Spiritualism and Mythology

Garrow & Gosden: Chapter 9: The Art of Community
Blackboard: The Druids – Chapters 2, 6, and 7

WEEK 11, NOVEMBER 6 – **QUIZ #2**; Spiritualism, continued: Christian Conversion

Blackboard: The Druids – Chapters 3 and 4
Ellis: Religion

WEEK 12, NOVEMBER 11 – Mythology and Medieval Literature

Blackboard: Celtic Realms – Chapters 7 and 8
Ellis: Mythology

WEEK 13, NOVEMBER 20 – Symbolism and Subversion in Medieval Art; Paper Review

Blackboard: Laing: Celtic Renaissance

WEEK 14, NOVEMBER 27 – **NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING BREAK**

WEEK 15, DECEMBER 4 – **RESEARCH PAPER and OPTIONAL EXTRA CREDIT DUE**; Conclusions

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 11 – **FINAL EXAM**