## SYLLABUS: HIST 309 (BRITAIN & IRELAND, 1100-1500 C.E.

FALL, 2018 - Prof. Lisa Bitel T/Th 11-12.20 pm - WPH 107

#### **COURSE OVERVIEW:**

This course will examine the insular kingdoms Europe—kingdoms on the islands of Britain and Ireland—and the many connections between them during the later Middle Ages.

We will track two themes across the centuries:

- 1. The interactions of Ireland, Wales, and Scotland with the expansionist Anglo-French kingdom.
- 2. Comparison of life in the insular kingdoms (political, social, cultural, economic).

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

- To become familiar with the history of the medieval kingdoms that became the modern states of the UK and Ireland;
- To investigate life in a particular region—Europe's northwestern edge--of the distant past;
- To develop appreciation of the past & its importance to the present;
- To become familiar with different methods & concepts used by historians;
- To improve critical and analytical skills;
- To learn some basic digital humanities methods, i.e., publishing a collaborative web-based timeline;
- To consider the problem of contested (historical) realities.

A typical class meeting will feature some informal lecture or presentation, followed by discussion of the primary sources. Some classes will be devoted to the class timeline or other spontaneous group activities.

Please bring all assigned reading/s to every class.

Please bring at least two written questions or comments on the day's readings to every class [see below.]

## **REQUIRED TEXTS:**

- Crouch, David. Medieval Britain, C. 1000-1500. Cambridge: Cambridge U Press, repr. 2017.
- Duffy, Seán. Ireland in the Middle Age.NY: Macmillan, 1977.
- Gerald of Wales, and John J. O'Meara. *The History and Topography of Ireland*. London: Penguin Books, 1982.
- Booke of Margery Kempe
- Gawain and the Green Knight

# Other readings available on blackboard or elsewhere on the internet.

- This syllabus is subject to change. I will communicate with you outside of class primarily through email and through Blackboard. It is your responsibility to check your account regularly (daily!) for updates & pertinent information. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.
- Class Conduct: Cell phone calls, texting, tardiness, inappropriate use of laptops, and other disruptive behavior will not be tolerated and will adversely affect your grade. If electronic devices are consistently disruptive, I will disallow use of laptops in class.
- Late Policy: Assignments that are turned in after their due date will automatically receive a penalty of 10 points. 5 additional points will be deducted for every subsequent 24-hour period or portion thereof that passes. So, if you turn your paper in one day late you will have already lost 15 points, or the equivalent of 1 1/2 grades. This is not to penalize you but to ensure fairness for your fellow classmates.
- **Email Policy:** I will do my best to respond in a timely fashion to your emails (usually within 24 hours M-F). Normally, I will not respond to an email sent after 7pm until the following day.
- Plagiarism Policy: Plagiarism is unacceptable. If you are uncertain as to what constitutes plagiarism, please seek help from myself or review USC's "Guide to Avoiding Plagiarism" online. (http://www.usc.edu/student-affairs/SJACS/forms/tig.pdf)
- Students with Disabilities: Any student requiring academic accommodation based on disability is required to register with Disability Services and Programs (DSP) each semester. A letter of verification for approved accommodations can be obtained by DSP. Please be sure the letter is delivered to me as early in the semester as possible. DSP is located in STU 301 and is open 8:30am-5:00pm Monday through Friday. The phone number for DSP is (213) 740-0776.

#### CLASS ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Weekly questions: 10% (total)

Participation, in-class exercises, and attendance = 10%

Timeline: 15%

Four 2-page review essays = 10% (total)

Paper, 5 pages (to be included on timeline) = 15%

Midterm = 20% Final = 20%

# Weekly questions:

You must bring at least two written questions for discussion to every class:

• Your weekly questions will usually come from your engagement with the **primary source material, i.e. documents & objects created during the medieval period under study** (not modern analyses or modern histories of the medieval period). Sometimes these are assigned readings for outside of class; at other times, we will explore the primary sources in class. Some weeks, however, we will read only modern analyses; your questions in that week can focus on the historiography.

Questions for primary sources (textual or material):

- o Why did the author or creator write/make this?
- o What purposes or audiences was it meant to serve?
- O What were the main points of the work?
- o How did the creator's context (political, social, cultural, economic, artistic, ethnic, regional, religious, etc.) influence this piece of evidence?
  - N.B. Questions that can be answered with a simple "yes" or "no" are not acceptable, because they won't help generate discussion and insights.
  - Check out this website for some help in dealing with primary sources: <u>www.bowdoin.edu/writingguides/primaries.htm</u>.
- Most important, you just need to be curious.

## Films & film reviews:

You are required to find and watch four films for this class. Please plan ahead and acquire these films before you need to watch them; most are easily available on iTunes, Prime Video, Netflix, or other web repositories.

You will also be required to write a two-page assessment of the historical value, point/s of view, and message of each film. For help in writing about films, please see: How to critique movies on blackboard.

# Timeline:

Our class will work together to create an annotated timeline over the course of the semester. You will be responsible for adding events, annotations, images, and themes to the website. The last timeline assignment is the equivalent of a short research paper.

## Midterm & Final exams:

These exams will consist primarily of essay questions relating to major themes in the course. PLEASE NOTE: it will be impossible to pass these exams without completing the reading, including the secondary surveys by Crouch & Duffy. Exams will cover all primary sources assigned as reading and those used in class.

	TOPIC	READING	IN CLASS	ASSIGNMENT
Wk1	Introduction to medieval Britain & Ireland  Aug. 21: Introduction to course Aug. 23: Conquest	For 8-23: RR Davies, "The Peoples of Britain and Ireland I: Identities," on Blackboard	<ul> <li>Matthew Paris: Map of Britain</li> <li>Marriage of Strongbow &amp; Aoife</li> </ul>	
Wk2	The Sources and the problems  Aug. 28: Evidence & how to find it; Timeline Aug. 30: Kings, queens, dynasties, genealogies	<ul> <li>Crouch, i-74</li> <li>Duffy, i-56</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Manuscripts online</li> <li>Guide to medieval sources - England</li> <li>English National Archives</li> <li>National Library of Ireland</li> <li>Guide to Irish sources</li> </ul>	Due 8-28: Using links to the left, find one interesting primary source relating to a king or a queen from medieval England, Ireland, Wales, or Scotland - come

	TOPIC	READING	IN CLASS	ASSIGNMENT
			<ul> <li>National Library of Wales</li> <li>National Library of Scotland</li> <li>People of Medieval Scotland</li> <li>English royal genealogies</li> <li>Irish genealogies from MS Rawl B502.</li> </ul>	ready to explain its contents & historical interest.
Wk3	Tues Sep. 4: Celtic Kingship Thurs Sep. 6: NO CLASS	<ul> <li>Gerald of Wales, The         History and Topography         of Ireland</li> <li>Aidan Breen,         "Embellishing History;" on         Blackboard</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Laws of Hywel Dda</li> <li>Domesday Book</li> </ul>	• Due 9-6: 3 items on timeline - individuals
Wk4	Chieftains & Lords  Tues Sep. 11: Plantagenets, etc. Thurs Sep. 13: Noble powers	<ul> <li>Crouch, 75-136</li> <li>Letter from Henry II to Eleanor</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>The Magna Carta</li> <li>King John of England: Fees for Use of the Great Seal, 1199</li> <li>King John of England: Royal Licenses to Export and Import, 1205-1206</li> <li>King John of England: Prisage on Wine, 1205</li> <li>John I Concession of England to the pope</li> </ul>	• Due 9-11: Watch The Lion in Winter (1968), dir. Anthony Harvey; write 2 page review due in class.

	TOPIC	READING	IN CLASS	ASSIGNMENT
Wk5	Castles & colonization  Tues Sep. 18: Castles Thurs Sep. 20: Comparison: the situations of Ireland & Wales	<ul> <li>Duffy, 57-132</li> <li>Crouch, 198-223; 260-68</li> <li>Caithreimh Thoirdhealbhach, excerpts (just read a few pages at start and a few pages at end of medieval text.)</li> <li>Davies, "Edward I and Wales" on blackboard</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>"Ten Minute English and British History #11: Magna Carta"</li> <li>Henry III, Lord of Ireland: Grant of Tolls in Dublin, 1250,</li> <li>Statuta Armorum (The Statutes of Arms), c.1260,</li> <li>Matthew of Westminster: Simon de Montfort's Rebell ion 1265, at</li> </ul>	• Due 9-18: 3 items on timeline - events
Wk6	Armies: the Scottish wars  Tues Sep 25: Conjoined kingdoms of Britain Thurs Sep 27: Wallace & the Bruces	<ul> <li>Crouch, 277-328</li> <li>Hammond, "Ethnicity and the Writing of Medieval Scottish History," in Readings online, on Blackboard</li> <li>Robert the Bruce, c. 1307, at <i>The Declaration of Arbroath</i> (English Translation) in Digital Resources</li> </ul>	The Flores Historiarum:     On William Wallace and	• Due 9- 27: Watch Bravehart (1995), dir. Mel Gibson; write 2 page review due in class.
Wk7	Reforming religion  Tues Oct. 2: Becket Thurs Oct. 4: Churches & monasteries	<ul> <li>Crouch, 137-73; 269-72</li> <li>Roger of Hoveden,</li></ul>	<ul> <li><u>Limoges casket</u></li> <li><u>Becket reliquary</u></li> </ul>	• Due 10-2: 3 images on timeline - artefacts
	Tues. Oct 9: Saints Thurs Oct. 11: NO CLASS	Jocelyn of Furness, <u>Life of Saint Patrick</u>	Druidic Dawn: Dewi	Take home MIDTERM

TOPIC	READING	IN CLASS	ASSIGNMENT
	Rhygyvarch, <u>Life of Saint</u> David		due to blackboard by 5 pm Oct 11
Religious practise  Tues Oct. 16: Pilgrima Thurs Oct 18: Gender Christianities		•	• Due 10-18: 3 annotations on timeline
Life in Country & To	wns Crouch, 224-58 • Medieval English Towns		
Tues Oct. 23: Urban l Thurs Oct 25: Outside	iving • Manorial management,		
	<ul> <li>Richard I of England: <u>Charter by</u> Which Many Liberties are Granted and Confirmed to the Jews, 22 March, 1190</li> <li>English Jewry is Organised: <u>The</u> Ordinances of the Jews,</li> </ul>		
	1194  • Appointment of an Archpriest of the Jews in England, July 1199 King		

TOPIC	READING	IN CLASS	ASSIGNMENT
	John of England and the Jews: <u>Charters</u> , c.1201		
Fairies & their tales  Tues Oct 30: the Síd Thurs Nov 1: Romance	Culhwch ac Olwen Branwen Ferch Llyr Fenian cycle: Boyhood Deeds of Finn Diarmaid ocus Grainne	Celtic Literature (trans.)	
Matter of Britain  Tues Nov 6: Arthurian traditions Thurs Nov 8: Bards & lovers	• Gawain and the Green Knight	<ul> <li>Dafydd ap Gwilym</li> <li>Arthurian bibliography</li> <li>Camelot Project</li> </ul>	Due 11-6: one paragraph on planned research annotation/s
Songs of heroes  Tues Nov 13: Princes & Pretenders Thurs Nov 15: Robin Hood	<ul> <li>Hanawalt, "Men's Games, King's Deer: Poaching in Medieval England," on Blackboard</li> <li>Robin Hood and the Monk, after 1450.</li> <li>Sean Field, "Devotion, Discontent, and the Henrician Reformation: The Evidence of the Robin Hood Stories," on Blackboard</li> </ul>	[Richard III docs]	11-15: Watch bits of: Robin Hood Prince of Thieves (1991) dir. Harvey Reynolds Adventures of Robin Hood (1938), dir. Michael Curtiz, William Keighley write 2 page review comparing the two films
Knights at War  Tues Nov 20: Hundred Years War Thurs Nov. 22: NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING	<ul><li>Duffy, 134-end</li><li>Froissart</li></ul>	<ul> <li>Shakespeare, Henry V</li> <li>Maps</li> <li>Joan of Arc archive</li> </ul>	Due Nov 20: Watch <i>Henry</i> $V(1989)$ , dir. Kenneth Branagh Write 2 page review

TOPIC	READING	IN CLASS	ASSIGNMENT
Songs of death  Tues. Nov. 27: Famine & Plague Thurs Nov. 29: Kingdoms of the 15th-century	<ul> <li>Crouch, 329-end</li> <li>Hatcher, "England in the Aftermath of the Black Death," on Blackboard</li> <li>Owain Glyndwr</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>[Plague documents]</li> <li>Statute of Laborers, 1351</li> <li>Anonimalle Chronicle:         <ul> <li>English Peasants' Revolt</li> <li>1381</li> <li>Kilkenny Statute</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Due 11-29: annotated theme/s on timeline (1500 words)