

OXFORD COLLEGE OF EMORY UNIVERSITY
GEOLOGY AND CULTURE IN SCOTLAND
Geol235 / Eng235

Stephen Henderson (Geology) and Christine Loflin (English)

SPRING SEMESTER 2009 (and MAY 2009)

PLEASE NOTE: Students will be registered either for Eng235 or Geol235. The two courses will meet together and take the field trip to Scotland, but will have different research proposal and field research components. Students taking this course as Geol235 will undertake a research project in the Earth Sciences. Students taking this course as Eng235 will undertake a research project relating to Scottish literature.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course has been designed to introduce students to interdisciplinary perspectives on human culture in its physical environment, with particular emphasis on connections between the geology, myth, storytelling, and literature. We will explore how geological processes have shaped the landscapes and ecosystems of Scotland and how those landscapes have influenced Scottish history and literature. In addition, students will study the landscapes and geology of Southern Scotland in and around Edinburgh and the Borders region, where we will meet with storytellers and visit significant literary landmarks. In Edinburgh, we will focus on the development of geology as a discipline. We will go to Sir Walter Scott's house in the Borders. On Skye, students will explore the connections between geology and culture as we hike parts of the new Museum in the Environment near Staffin and meet with local residents where the Gaelic culture has been preserved. On Lewis and Harris in the Outer Hebrides, we will investigate the nature of sacred landscapes in the Celtic world. As the course winds down in the Highlands, the geological and cultural significance of Loch Ness will be explored. At the conclusion of the course, the students will have gained much knowledge of both Scottish geology and culture.

COURSE GOALS

By the end of this course, students will have:

- Completed an independent research project
- Given a field defense of their research project for the class
- Gained a knowledge of basic principles of geology in the country where geology was first established as a discipline
- Gained a knowledge of basic structures of both oral and written storytelling, and of their connection to local environments and culture
- Learned, through the study of both geology and literature, to make interdisciplinary connections between place, culture and literature

COURSE LOGISTICS

CLASS MEETING TIME: Monday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. or 8:30 in Pierce 109. Plus field trip in Scotland (May 2009)

PROFESSORS: Dr. Christine Loflin Humanities Rm 204, (770) 784-4682
Dr. Stephen Henderson Pierce Rm 106, (770) 784-8345

TEXTS: Electronic reserves including readings in geology and literature
Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde
Poetry Anthology

ATTENDANCE: All students are expected to attend all scheduled Monday night class sessions. Because we only meet once a week during the semester, each session becomes very important. Attendance will be taken. If an absence is unavoidable, timely (i.e. as soon as at all possible) contact needs to be made with the professors. Unexcused absences are unacceptable and for each unexcused absence, two points will be deducted from the student's final course grade.

HONOR CODE: The Oxford College Honor Code applies to this course. If unsure whether or not how a particular assignment falls under the Honor Code, ask the professor prior to doing the assignment.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: This course consists of a conventional academic component on the Oxford campus and an intensive segment in Scotland, during May 2009. During the spring 2009 semester, each student will develop a research proposal on a topic of individual interest, approved by the instructors. The written report will be turned in during the spring semester and the oral presentation will be done in Scotland. This course requires a great deal of commitment from each student. At Oxford, you must be willing to keep up with the readings and class discussions and produce a credible research project. In Scotland, you must be willing to be a keen observer of natural and cultural environments, keeping a careful journal throughout the trip. Each student will need to take a good deal of initiative in pursuing his or her research project, and will have to conduct an oral "field defense" and presentation on his or her findings. You should be prepared to engage in a fair amount of physical activity while in Scotland, including daily hikes and other activities.

GRADING AND EVALUATION: Grades will be determined as follows:

Quiz (Feb 16)	5%
Lecture test (Apr 27)	15%
Annotated Bibliography	5%
Research Project	20%
Field Journal	25%

Presentation of Project	15%
Class participation	10%
Attitude	5%

LECTURE SCHEDULE FOR SPRING 2009

Week 1 (Jan 26): The Big Picture

Plate tectonics and volcanism (Dr. Henderson)

Introduction to Scottish literature & languages (Dr. Loflin)

Week 2 (Feb 2): Creation of Scottish Landscapes

The role of glaciation and other types of erosion (Dr. Henderson)

Week 3 (Feb 9): Focus on Scotland

The geology of Scotland (Dr. Henderson)

Cultural regions of Scotland (Drs. Loflin & Henderson)

Week 4 (Feb 16): Scotland: National Identity (Drs. Henderson & Loflin)

Scottish history, Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott, Music, & Contemporary Movements.

Quiz at beginning of class.

Week 5 (Feb 23): Workshop on Research Design (Drs. Loflin & Henderson)

Includes an introduction to research methods, strategies and ethics.

Week 6 (Mar 2): The Outer Hebrides: Lewis & Harris (Drs. Loflin & Henderson)

Geology of the Hebridean Terrane. Standing stones & other cultural monuments in the Hebridean landscape. Celtic fairytales & music.

First draft of Research Proposal due.

Spring Break

Week 7 (Mar 16): The Highlands (Drs. Henderson & Loflin)

Geology of the Northern Highlands Terrane & Grampian Highlands Terrane. History, poetry, & music.

Week 8 (Mar 23): The Borders (Drs. Loflin & Henderson)

Geology of the Southern Uplands Terrane. Folktales including Tam Lin, and Scott & Burns

Week 9 (Mar 30): Edinburgh & the Midlands (Drs. Loflin & Henderson)

Geology of the Midland Valley Terrane. Urban architecture; rational thought and the rise of medicine and geology in Edinburgh. Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde.

Annotated bibliography of Research Project due.

Week 10 (Apr 6): Skye (Drs. Henderson & Loflin)

Geology of Skye including the Mesozoic & Cenozoic of Scotland. Island fiction & poetry.

Week 11 (Apr 13): Cinematic Representations of Scotland (Drs. Loflin & Henderson)

Screening of ?

Week 12 (Apr 20): Review & Trip Preparation Workshop (Drs. Loflin & Henderson)

Final Research Paper due.

Week 13 (Apr 27): Lecture Test

Tentative Itinerary in Scotland

May 13-17: Edinburgh

Visit Arthur's Seat, Edinburgh Castle, the Museum of Scotland, the Writers' Literary Museum, the Scott Monument, the National Storytelling Centre, the Scottish National Parliament Building, Day trip to the Borders including Scott's house & Melrose Abbey,

May 18: Travel

Train from Edinburgh-Skye

May 19-21: Skye

Hiking in the Museum in the Environment on the Trotternish Peninsula including the Quiraing. Visit Dunscaith Castle & hike in the Cuillins, visit the Staffin Museum & perhaps go fossil hunting with Dougie Ross, perhaps hear storytelling from George MacPherson & Gaelic singing from Anne Martin.

May 22: Travel

Ferry from Uig on Skye to Tarbert on Harris, drive to Lewis

May 23-24: Outer Hebrides Islands of Harris & Lewis

Beaches & glacial terrain of Harris, Callanish Standing Stones & Sacred Landscape of Lewis

May 25: Travel

Ferry from Stornoway on Lewis to Ullapool in western Highlands, drive through the Highlands

May 26-27: Highlands

Loch Ness, Urquhart Castle, Colloden