

THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF SCOTLAND

PETER SMITH

Mondays starting October 2 through November 6 for six sessions | 1:30–3:30 p.m.
HYBRID | LECTURE/DISCUSSION | UNLIMITED

Overview

Scotland is an ancient land with an impressive influence on the modern world. There is an abundance of books and movies on Scotland which will be recommended as the session proceed. Arthur Herman's *How the Scots Invented the Modern World* (2001) is excellent but dense, probably best read after the course. The title is not an exaggeration. A more engaging book is Neil Oliver's *A History of Scotland*, 2009

Course Schedule

Session	Topic
SESSION 1	<p>THE LANDSCAPE</p> <p>The heritage of Scotland is integrated with its geography and the landscape of highlands, lowlands, and islands. The weather plays its part, influencing the agriculture of oats, barley, sheep and cattle. The importance and character of the main cities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Inverness, will be reviewed.</p>
SESSION 2	<p>A LONG HISTORY</p> <p>Numerous invading peoples have left their mark: from ancient Picts, Gaels, and Angels to the Romans, the Vikings, Normans, and the English. Kingdoms have come and gone usually with bloody consequences. There are many remarkable figures: Macbeth, William Wallace (Braveheart), Robert the Bruce, John Knox, Mary Queen of Scots => Union of the Crowns.</p>
SESSION 3	<p>ENLIGHTENMENT AND REBELLION</p> <p>After 1707 with the Union of Parliaments, Scotland flourished both economically and philosophically. Scotland's education system promoted a high literacy rate and world-changing ideas that are still with us. The failed Jacobite rebellions of 1719, and 1745 (Bonnie Prince Charlie) provide a lesson in hubris and brought an end to the feudal society of the Highlands.</p>

Course Schedule (cont.)

Session	Topic
SESSION 4	THE DIASPORA Many Scots emigrated to the USA to escape poverty. The infamous Highland Clearances of the early 19th century only exacerbated this loss. Fortunes were made from the tobacco/cotton/sugar trade with the Americas. From Nova Scotia to Appalachia, Scotsmen have spread out across the Americas and into world with their education, resilience, and ideas on liberty. Their humanism influenced America's Constitution. Canada and Australia largely benefitted from Scottish enterprise. Many industries including Engineering and Architecture have been influenced by Scotsmen such as Watts and Bell.
SESSION 5	THE ARTS AND CULTURE There is more to Scotland's culture than bagpipes: folk music, Ceilidhs, the Highland Games and of course Whisky. Scotland's culinary delights are discussed. Then there is a strong literary tradition which includes Burns and Sir Walter Scott and more. Rennie Macintosh (d. 1928) was a renowned architect and painter.
SESSION 6	UP TO THE PRESENT Serious social changes – unemployment, poverty, welfare - have influenced Scotland from the end of WWI to the present. Now we have vigorous Scottish Nationalism and Brexit to discuss. Will Scotland divorce itself from the United Kingdom? The economy now emphasizes IT, Oil, Tourism, Services; not to forget Whisky.