



EAST TENNESSEE STATE  
UNIVERSITY

College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Appalachian Studies

## APST/ENGL 4237/5237- SCOTS-IRISH IN APPALACHIA

Instructor: Dr. Jane MacMorran [macmorra@etsu.edu](mailto:macmorra@etsu.edu)

Office: 439-7992 / Nicks Hall #217 / Office Hours by appointment

Course Description: This course examines the cultural connection between Appalachia and two of its major cultural progenitors, Scotland and Ireland. Components include history, emigration, diaspora, material culture, music, tales, dance, literature, and identity.

The course places an emphasis on active learning through engagement with course material, class participation, and collaboration. This is accomplished through class discussions and the sharing of research through class presentations.

Course Outcome: Students will develop a foundation for developing a deeper understanding of the historical links and cultural parallels between Appalachia, Scotland, and Northern Ireland.

D2L: It will be very important to check your ETSU email account and the D2L course pages frequently to access assigned readings, take-home exams, reminders, and course Dropbox folders. Assignments will only be accepted through D2L and must be submitted as Word documents. Please do not send assignments via email. Links to class zoom recordings will be posted on D2L following class each week.

### Required Texts:

Ron Chepesiuk: *The Scotch-Irish: From the North of Ireland to the Making of America*.

ISBN: 978-0-7864-2273-9

### D2L Readings - May include selections from:

*Ulster and North America* (Blethen, Wood, and Fraser)

*The People With No Name: Ireland's Ulster Scots, America's Scots Irish, and the Creation of a British Atlantic World, 1689-1764* (Griffin)

*Legacy: The Scots Irish in America* (McReynolds)

*The Upland South* (Jordan-Bychkov)

*The Log Cabin in East Tennessee* (Morgan)

*The Thistle and the Brier* (Blaustein)

*Highland Heritage: Scottish Americans in the American South* (Ray)

*Ulster Scots Writing* (Ed.- Ferguson)

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For Discussion/Debate: *Wayfaring Strangers* (Orr, Ritchie) and *Born Fighting* (Webb)

### Assignments:

Students are expected to read the assigned textbook pages prior to class and contribute to class discussions.

Discussion Topics/Discussion Leaders: Each student will be assigned a week to serve as discussion leader. As discussion leader, students should prepare 4-5 discussion questions and facilitate class discussion.

Evidence Journal: In their book, *From Ulster to Carolina*, Tyler Blethen and Curtis Wood write, “the presence of the Scotch-Irish still surrounds us in the southern Appalachians in the evidence of family names, in the stamp the Scotch-Irish placed upon the customs of the region, and in lingering family memories.”

Each student will keep an “Evidence Journal” of observations, experiences, and discoveries that reflect this presence. Students will choose and share five observations with the class during the course of the semester (dates TBD). Graduate Level: Students are expected to share five observations that are thoroughly supported with research and thoughtful commentary. Graduate entries will be *written and submitted* to the D2L Dropbox folder (dates TBD). Remember to appropriately cite any sources used.

“Photo Portfolio” of Vernacular Architecture: Vernacular architecture refers to structures built of local materials in a functional style that would meet the needs of common people in their time and place. It is sometimes called folk architecture. People with no formal architectural design schooling built vernacular structures.

Each student will take photos (or use online resources) of a minimum of 5 examples of Appalachian vernacular architecture, including barns, churches, log cabins, etc. You may also include artifacts such as cemeteries and gravestones. Include a 1-2 paragraph summary of where the photo was taken and other explanatory information. (Example: Log cabin - type of construction/notching, location, function, etc.) The portfolio will be shared with the class and submitted to the designated D2L dropbox folder (dates TBD).

Reading Responses: Each student will write an essay response to 3-5 assigned readings: articles, guest lecture, documentaries, etc. Guidelines for your response will be handed out and posted on D2L. Responses will be submitted to the designated D2L dropbox folder. (Dates TBD) Graduate Level: Graduate students will read and respond to 5 in-depth articles written by a wide range of scholars in the field. Students will briefly share the main points of the article with the class (dates TBD).

Research Project: This assignment will allow each student to research his or her own particular topic of interest. Students are encouraged to use materials from the Appalachian,

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Scottish, and Irish Studies Collection or other appropriate collection in the Archives of Appalachia as one of your resources. Further details will be discussed in class, in the specific research assignment handout (and posted on D2L). Your research topic must be submitted and approved by mid-February. Research projects will be shared with the class during the last two weeks of classes.

Exams: Drawing from textbooks, lectures, presentations, and class notes, students will complete an open-book midterm exam and a comprehensive open-book final exam. The submission deadline for the final exam is 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday May 4<sup>th</sup>.

### Grading Rubric:

Evidence Journal: 25 pts. Photo

Portfolio: 25 pts. Research

Report: 100 pts. Responses: Total

of 125 pts. Midterm: 100 pts.

Final Exam: 100 pts. Discussion:

25 pts. Undergraduate Grading

### Scale:

- A 94-100 (466-500 Pts.)
- A- 90-93 (450-465 Pts.)
- B+ 87-89 (439-449 Pts.)
- B 84-86 (416-438 Pts.)
- B- 80-83 (400-415 Pts.)
- C+ 77-79 (389-399 Pts.)
- C 74-76 (366-388 Pts.)
- C- 70-73 (350-365 Pts.)
- D+ 67-69 (339-349 Pts.)
- D 64-66 (316-338 Pts.)
- D- 60-63 (300-315 Pts.)
- F Below 60 (Below 300 Pts.)

### Graduate Grading Scale:

- A 94-100 (466-500 Pts.)
- A- 90-93 (450-465 Pts.)
- B+ 87-89 (439-449 Pts.)
- B 84-86 (416-438 Pts.)
- B- 80-83 (400-415 Pts.)

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- C+ 77-79 (389-399 Pts.)
- C 74-76 (366-388 Pts.)
- F Below 60 (Below 300 Pts.)