



# Introduction to Medieval Scotland (LLLE08001)

School & College	College of Humanities & Social Science Centre for Open Learning
Subject Area	History, Classics and Archaeology
SCF Credit Level	SCQF Level 8 (Year 1 Undergraduate)
Credits	20 SCQF/10 ECTS/4 US
Course pre-requisite	1 year of undergraduate study
Language requirements	IELTS 6.5 (with a minimum of 5.5 in each component)

Organiser	Dr Sally Crumplin <a href="mailto:Sally.Crumplin@ed.ac.uk">Sally.Crumplin@ed.ac.uk</a>
Secretary	Ms Kameliya Skerleva <a href="mailto:Kameliya.Skerleva@ed.ac.uk">Kameliya.Skerleva@ed.ac.uk</a>

## Summary

An intensive course introducing the history of Medieval Scotland while developing historical skills. Using a range of primary sources - physical objects and documents in translation - the course aims to expand writing and presentation skills and to develop students' source handling and understanding. The course will draw extensively on the rich cultural heritage of the area, with privileged access to Edinburgh's museums, galleries and archives, and local historic sites such as Edinburgh's castle and Old Town, and remains of medieval churches.

## Course Description

This course covers the history of Scotland from the eleventh century to the early sixteenth. Students will explore the relative dynastic stability during reigns of Malcolm III and his descendants to Alexander III, they will look at the Great Cause and the Wars of Independence, followed by Bruce kingship and then the Stewart dynasty, ending with the reign of James IV. After considering politics and kingship in this chronological framework, the course will take a thematic approach, looking at the religious, military, cultural and economic history of the period, and placing Scotland in the wider context of medieval Europe. The course will encourage students to consider medieval Scotland through broader questions about identity, rulership, gender, belief and international relations.

## Course Format and Teaching Method

The course will be taught through a combination of lectures, seminar discussion, small group work and site visits. The intensive nature of the course will allow for classroom lecture/seminar sessions to be interspersed with complementary site visits and study skills workshops, focusing on reading and analysis, source-handling, oral presentation and essay-writing. Students will be introduced to a wide range of primary source material: written sources in translation and physical evidence such as buildings, objects, paintings and manuscripts. They will also work with a range of secondary sources, encouraging analysis of historiographical opinion.

## Learning Outcomes

On completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- demonstrate understanding of the history of Medieval Scotland in a variety of thematic areas;
- place the thematic history of medieval Scotland in the wider context of the medieval world, and of later developments in Scotland;
- handle and analyse a range of primary sources;
- synthesise and analyse critically the opinions of others;
- collate and present concepts and ideas in oral and written contexts.

## Assessment Method

- Class contribution: 10% of total marks (based on attendance and class contribution).
- Oral presentation: 20% of total marks; 10 minute presentation and 500-word abstract.
- Essay: 70% of total marks 2000 words to be delivered two weeks after the course has finished.

## Recommended Reading

Below are some examples of reading related to the course content. Course participants are not required to read anything prior to the start of the course and will be given more detailed information of required reading on arrival.

Harris, B. and MacDonald, A. R. (eds.), 2006. *Scotland: The Making and Unmaking of the Nation, c. 1100- 1707, Volume 1: The Scottish Nation: Origins to c. 1500*. Dundee: Dundee University Press.

Barrell, A. D. M., 2000. *Medieval Scotland*. Cambridge: CUP

Brown, M., 2004. *The Wars of Scotland 1214-1371*. Edinburgh: EUP

Brown, M., 2008. *Bannockburn: the Scottish War and the British Isles 1307-1323*. Edinburgh: EUP

Cowan, E.J., 2011. *A History of Everyday Life in Medieval Scotland 1000-1600*. Edinburgh: EUP

Dawson, J.E.A., 2007. *Scotland Reformed: 1488-1587*. Edinburgh: EUP

King, A. and Eddy, C. eds., 2015. *England and Scotland 1286-1603*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan

Oram, R., 2006. *Domination and Lordship: Scotland 1070-1230*. Edinburgh: EUP

Stevenson, K., 2014. *Power and Propaganda. Scotland 1306-1488*. Edinburgh: EUP