

HIS 2731: Legions and Legends, Pagans and Priests - Syllabus

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Course and Instructor Information

Course Term: J-Term 2019

Location: London, UK

Instructor: Daniel Miller, Ph.D.

Email: danielmiller@landmark.edu

Course Description

Located in London, this study abroad course will explore the history, culture, religion, and literature of the period from the Roman occupation of England until its eventual unification in the reign of Alfred the Great in the 9th century. Course questions include: Why did the Roman Empire extend its reaches to the British Isles in 55 BCE? What prompted them to leave four hundred years later? What happened after they left, in a period shrouded in mystery and legend? Was King Arthur real? What of the legends of Excalibur, Guinevere and Lancelot, and the Knights of the Round Table? Who were the Saxons, and how did they finally unify Britain, reigning in a kingdom that has fired the imagination of the English-speaking world for centuries? The class will visit archeological sites, cities, museums, and ruins that tell the stories of this complex history. Students will be asked to write reports on course-related excursions, write reflection essays, and take quizzes on course discussions and reading materials.

Learning Outcomes

By the conclusion of the course, students will:

- Demonstrate an overall familiarity with the history of Britain from the Roman period to the end of the reign of Alfred the Great.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the conflicts and transitions that define this period (e.g., the transition from the Romans to the Anglo-Saxons, conflict between the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings, competition between rival Anglo-Saxon kingdoms, etc.)
- Demonstrate an understanding of the history of this period as it is expressed in material-cultural remains (e.g., artifacts on display in museums and archaeological sites, in literary production, etc.)
- Demonstrate an understanding of the role of history, myth, and literature in the shaping of cultural identity (e.g., as in the articulation and social role of Arthurian myth)
- Use the Study Abroad alternative experience to learn course material by approaching field trips with a goal, participating actively, and reflecting on local experience to successfully attain the foregoing course objectives.

Required Texts and Course Materials

The following texts are required for the course and are available for purchase in the campus bookstore.

- John Blair, *The Anglo-Saxon Age: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: OUP, 2002)

- Peter Salway, *Roman Britain: A Very Short Introduction*, 2nd Ed. (Oxford: OUP, 2015)

With proof of purchase of the course texts (i.e., with a bookstore receipt), students are also entitled to a digital copy of these texts. These can be obtained from the Library, and facilitate the use of instructional technologies such as Kurzweil. Students are encouraged to make use of this resource if they find it helpful.

Students are also required to read a number of additional PDF texts for the course; these are available via Canvas. **[Arthurian texts will be provided in PDF format]**

Itinerary and Schedule of Readings and Assignments

1/5

Departure: Boston Logan International Airport

1/6

Arrival: London Heathrow International Airport

- Light sightseeing
- Site orientation

1/7

Morning: Class Session (11:00-1:00)

- "Roman Britain"
- Reading: Salway ch. 2

Afternoon: Free

Due: Discussion 1 (by 11:00 am)

1/8

Morning: Class Session (11:00-1:00)

- "Roman Britain"
- Reading: Salway ch. 3

Afternoon: London Outing 1 (*Required*)

- Roman Wall Walk
- Guildhall Amphitheater
- London Mithraeum

Due: Discussion 2 (by 11:00 am)

1/9

Morning: Class Session (11:00-1:00)

- "From the Romans to the Saxons"
- Reading: Salway ch. 4; Blair ch. 1

Afternoon: Free

Due: Discussion 3 (by 11:00 am)

Due: London Outing 1 Report (by 11:59 pm)

1/10

Day Trip: Caerleon, Wales (*Required*)

1/11

Morning: Free

Afternoon: London Outing 2 (*Required*)

- Museum of London
- British Museum

Due: Caerleon Outing Report (by 11:59 pm)

1/12

Open Day

1/13

Open Day

Due: London Outing 2 Report (by 11:59 pm)

1/14

Day Trip: Glastonbury (*Required*)

1/15

Morning: Class Session (11:00-1:00)

- "The Myth of Arthur Then"
- Reading: Geoffrey of Monmouth (PDF)
- Reading: Malory, *Le Morte D'Arthur* (PDF)

Afternoon: Free

Due: Discussion 4 (by 11:00 am)

Due: Glastonbury Outing Report (by 11:59 pm)

1/16

Morning:

Morning: Class Session (11:00-1:30)

- "The Myth of Arthur Now"
- Reading: Bradley, *Mists of Avalon* (PDF)
- Reading: Cornwell, *The Winter King* (PDF)

Afternoon: Free

Due: Discussion 5 (by 11:00 am)

1/17

Day Trip: Jorvik Viking Centre (*Required*)

1/18

Morning: Class Session (11:00-1:30)

- "The Shape of Saxon England"
- Reading: Blair chs. 2 and 4

Afternoon: London Outing 3 (*Required*)

- All Hallow's Barking
- Museum of London
- British Museum

Due: Discussion 6 (by 11:00 am)

1/19

Day Trip: Canterbury (*Required*)

1/20

Open Day

1/21

Open Day

1/22

Morning: Class Session (11:00-1:00)

- Religion and Conflict in Saxon England
- Reading: Blair chs. 3 and 5

Afternoon: Free

Due: Discussion 7 (by 11:00 am)

Due: London Outing Report 3 (by 11:59 pm)

1/23

Morning: Class Session (11:00-11:00)

- "The Rise and Fall of Mercia and Wessex"
- Reading: Blair chs. 6 and 7

Afternoon: Free

Due: Discussion 8 (by 11:00 am)

Due: Jorvik Outing Report (by 11:59 pm)

1/24

Open Day

Due: Canterbury Outing Report (by 11:59 pm)

1/25

Departure: London Heathrow International Airport

Arrival: Boston Logan International Airport

Course Assignments

Assignments will be due on the dates and by the times listed in the course syllabus. Written assignments and discussions will be submitted via Canvas; hard copies and email attachments of assignments will not be accepted. Students will also receive comments on written work via Canvas.

Course Outings: Due to the highly experiential focus of the course, participation in course-related outings listed in the course syllabus are a required element of the course. Attendance and participation in each outing is worth **25 points** (for a total of **175 points**).

Canvas Discussions: Students are required to participate in online discussions, via Canvas, focused on assigned readings and other course materials. The instructor will post questions or prompts for discussion. For each discussion, students are required to post *two* responses as follows:

- All students must post a response to the questions/prompts posted by the instructor (15 pts.)
- All students must also constructively comment on or engage at least one other student's response to the instructor questions/prompts (5 pts.)

Student's responses to discussion questions/prompts will be assessed based on their demonstration of critical engagement with course materials and effective interaction with each other and the instructor.

Each discussion is worth **20 points** (for a total of **160 points**).

Student Outing Reports: Students will complete and submit a report on each of the required course outings, utilizing the form/template available via Canvas. These reports provide students an opportunity to describe and critically reflect on the locale of the outing (e.g., publicly-accessible city walk, archeological site, museum, etc.), the nature and format of the materials encountered on the outing, discussion of the materials (if applicable), and to relate the outing experience to assigned readings and class sessions.

Each report is worth **50 points**, for a total of **300 points**.

Grade Calculation

Students' final grades for the course will be calculated as the percentage of points they earn out of the total possible for the course.

Total Points for the Course:

Course Outings: 175 pts.	(28%)
Canvas Discussions: 160 pts.	(25%)
Student Outing Reports: 300 pts.	(47%)
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Total: 635 pts.	(100%)

Letter Grade Scale

Grade Scale:

100-93:	A
92-90:	A-
89-87:	B+
86-83:	B
82-80:	B-
79-77:	C+
76-73:	C
72-70:	C-
69-67:	D+
66-63:	D
62-60:	D-
<59:	F

Attendance Policy

Attendance and participation in course class sessions and outings are required elements of the course. Absences may be excused when the instructor deem it appropriate. If students have questions or concerns about absences, or if they feel their absences owe to extenuating circumstances of which the instructor should be aware, they are encouraged to discuss them with the instructor.

For more on the Landmark College attendance policy, see p. 19 of the Student Handbook:

http://www.landmark.edu/m/uploads/Student_Handbook_2015-2016.pdf

Administrative Withdrawal Policy

For the Landmark College Administrative Withdrawal policy, see pp. 16-18 of the Student Handbook

http://www.landmark.edu/m/uploads/Student_Handbook_2015-2016.pdf

Course Conduct

Students in the course are subject to the Landmark College Student Code of Conduct, outlined on pp. 3-4 of the Student Handbook:

http://www.landmark.edu/m/uploads/Student_Handbook_2015-2016.pdf

Conduct which violates these standards or is otherwise adversely affects the course learning environment will not be tolerated. Students are encouraged to contact the instructor if they have questions or concerns about these expectations.

Computer and Cell Phone Policy

Due to the negative learning impacts of computer and social media multi-tasking during class (including distraction of other students), the use, of hand-held electronic devices is prohibited during class sessions. Violations of this policy will result in an absence for the day in question.

The class-related use of computers is allowed. Students are prohibited from engaging in non-class-related computer activities during class sessions (i.e., checking and updating social media websites, Internet browsing, etc.). Students are strongly encouraged to disable their wireless internet connections during class sessions. If the instructor suspects that students are not abiding by this policy, he will address the issue with them in class. Multiple infractions will result in reports of the incidents on Self Service, and possibly the prohibition of all computer use in future class sessions.

In addition to the prohibition on smart phone and cell phone use and the limitation on computer use in class sessions, the use of earbuds and headphones is prohibited unless students have made prior arrangements with the instructor.

Netiquette Policy

What is Netiquette? Simply stated, it is network etiquette -- that is, the etiquette of cyberspace. And "etiquette" means "the forms required by good breeding or prescribed by authority to be required in social or official life." In other words, Netiquette is a set of rules for behaving properly online.

The following Netiquette rules will apply to this course. For full details please view the book: [Netiquette the Core Rules](#).

Rule 1: Remember the Human

Rule 2: Adhere to the same standards of behavior online that you follow in real life

Rule 3: Know where you are in cyberspace

Rule 4: Respect other people's time and bandwidth

- Rule 5: Make yourself look good online
- Rule 6: Share expert knowledge
- Rule 7: Help keep flame wars under control
- Rule 8: Respect other people's privacy
- Rule 9: Don't abuse your power
- Rule 10: Be forgiving of other people's mistakes

Late Work Policy

Students who do not participate in class sessions or required course outings cannot ordinarily receive make-up credit. Reading discussions cannot be submitted for credit after the posted due date. Course outing reports may be submitted for a maximum of 80% credit up to 48 hours after the posted due date, and for 65% credit by the last day prior to departure from London. Grading priority is given to assignments submitted by the dates indicated in the course syllabus, meaning that late work will often not be graded until the end of the semester.

Communication and Response Time

There are three primary ways of communicating with the instructor.

The **Announcements** section in Canvas. This is where students can find general announcements from the instructor to the class. Class cancelations, adjustments to the course syllabus or course assignments, or related issues will be announced here. Students should check announcements regularly.

Email. Email provides the most common means of direct and private communication between the student and the instructor. This provides a means of communication about issues ranging from clarifications and concerns about course materials to questions about grades and performance. Email is also the primary means by which the instructor will communicate with individual students about issues of concern. Emails from the instructor will be sent to students' Landmark College emails; students who use a different email address will need to ensure they receive notifications of emails sent to their Landmark accounts. Email is also the most effective means of contacting the professor outside of class time and office hours.

Office Hours/Appointments. Office hours provide students with an opportunity for direct one-on-one contact with the professor in a private setting. Office hours will be scheduled on a rolling basis and posted on Canvas. There is no need to schedule an appointment to meet during office hours; except in exceptional circumstances, the instructor will be in the office during posted office hours and can meet with students on a drop-in basis. Individual meetings can also be scheduled by appointment in cases where students cannot meet during scheduled office hours due to conflicts with other academic obligations.

Response Time: Email is the preferred method for students to contact the instructor outside of class time and office hours. The instructor will do his best to respond to student emails in a timely fashion. In almost all instances, students can expect a response to emails within 24 hours during the work week (Monday through Friday). Response times will vary for emails received over weekends and holidays. In addition, students should be aware that the instructor does not keep “undergraduate hours,” so that emails sent in the late evening or at night are unlikely to receive a response before the next day.

Academic Honesty and Plagiarism Policy

Students in the course are subject to the Landmark College policy on Academic Dishonesty and Plagiarism. In cases of academic dishonesty or plagiarism, the policy outlined on p. 14 of the Student Handbook will be applied.

http://www.landmark.edu/m/uploads/Student_Handbook_2015-2016.pdf

Accommodation Policy

“Given the College’s unique mission, many academic accommodations that might be customary or required at traditional institutions would not be appropriate at Landmark, because they would alter the College’s academic program. Therefore, while all students are encouraged to make inquiries or requests regarding disability issues through the following procedure as necessary, students should recognize that there is usually no need for them to use the procedure to address learning disability or attention deficit disorder-related issues. Such issues are not ordinarily viewed as within the scope of this policy, because they are addressed with faculty, faculty advisors, or otherwise, as part of the College’s core curriculum and academic and residential programs.”

Both students and the instructor are subject to the Accommodations Policy and Procedures of Landmark College. See pp. 26-31 of the Student Handbook.

http://www.landmark.edu/m/uploads/Student_Handbook_2015-2016.pdf

Classroom Recording Policy

“All course materials (lectures, discussions, handouts, examinations, web materials) and the general, intellectual contents of each course at Landmark College are protected under federal copyright laws. The content of any recording of a lecture or class discussion is protected under federal copyright law and may not be published, quoted, or shared without the consent of the faculty member.”

“For the purposes of private academic study and review, Landmark College students may record class lectures and discussions using analog or digital technology, including audio, video, still photos, and other forms of capture technology as they become available.”

Students who wish to record class sessions and/or discussions may do so in accordance with the Landmark College Classroom Recording Policy, outlined on pp. 20-21 of the Student Handbook.

http://www.landmark.edu/m/uploads/Student_Handbook_2015-2016.pdf

Class Cancellation Policy

Official notice of class cancellations and faculty absences is generally posted at 8 a.m. each day during the academic year on Sharknet and also the door of the College's Business Office. Please use this link to access information about daily cancellations and faculty absences:

<https://intranet.landmark.edu/lists/absences/index.cfm>

Barring extreme circumstances, all required course outings will take place *regardless of weather conditions*.