

THE HISTORY AND CULTURE OF SCOTLAND

Scotland is an ancient land with an impressive influence on the modern world. I will recommend books and movies on Scotland as we proceed. The course format will be group discussion and lectures.

Session 1: THE LANDSCAPE

The heritage of Scotland is integrated with its geography and the landscape of highlands, lowlands, and islands. The weather influences the agriculture of oats, barley, sheep, and cattle. The main cities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Inverness, will be discussed.

Session 2: A LONG HISTORY

Numerous peoples have invaded and left their mark: ancient Picts, Gaels, and Angels; the Romans, Vikings, and the English. Kingdoms have come and gone, with bloody consequences. We will encounter Scottish figures before and after the 1707 union with England: Macbeth, William Wallace (Braveheart), Robert the Bruce, Mary Queen of Scots, Bonnie Prince Charlie.

Session 3: RELIGION AND EDUCATION

From the fierce Calvinist Presbyterianism of John Knox to the Scottish Enlightenment, Catholic versus Protestant furies raged, again with bloody consequences. But Scotland's educational system promoted a high literacy rate and the nation's world-changing ideas are still with us.

Session 4: THE ARTS

There is more to Scotland's culture than bagpipes: folk music, Ceilidhs, the Highland Games and, of course, golf. The literature includes poetry and fiction by Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott, plus Victoriana, Renle Macintosh, and more.

Session 5: INDUSTRIES

Many industries, including engineering and architecture have been influenced by Scotsmen such as Watts and Bell. The tobacco trade with the Americas created fortunes. Today, the emphasis is on IT, oil, tourism, and, of course, whisky.

Session 6: THE DIASPORA

Poverty and the infamous Highland Clearances created opportunities abroad. From Nova Scotia to Appalachia, Scotsmen have spread out across the Americas and into world with their education, resilience, and ideas on liberty. In war, the Scots were famous fighters. Now, we must discuss Scottish nationalism and Brexit.

This is a basic outline of our main topics. Details may change as the course develops. Arthur Herman's *How the Scots Invented the Modern World* (2001) is excellent but dense; you might want to read it after the course. The title is not an exaggeration. A more engaging book is Neil Oliver's *A History of Scotland* (2009).

LEADER: Peter Smith is Scottish and had a career in IT and US regulatory affairs. He has taught previous courses for Evergreen and has many interests, including woodworking, writing, and puppetry.

THURSDAYS: 1:00 to 3:00 p.m, 8 weeks beginning September 30 through November 18

MAXIMUM: 30