This course surveys British culture from its Celtic beginnings through the Elizabethan Era, including important historical events, social trends, and developments in literature, art, architecture, and religion. We will work to draw connections among these areas in order to develop a fuller understanding of the complex interrelationships at work within early and early modern British culture. For each period we cover, we will read and discuss historical analyses, view examples of art, artifacts, and architecture, and study literary texts which both exemplify and elucidate their historical periods.

Requirements for the Course

Attendance and Participation. I expect you to attend class regularly, to come to class having read the material assigned for that day, and to be prepared to engage in class discussion, group work, and other in-class activities.

Reading Responses. Five written responses (1-page each) to class readings will be due at regular intervals (see class schedule). If you turn in all five on time, and all five responses earn a check mark, you will earn an A for your responses; 4 checked and on time receive a B; 3 checked and on time receive a C; 2 will receive a D; and 1 or none will receive an F. I will provide a list of possible topics for these short exercises, or you may write on topics of your own devising. [20%]

Exams. We will have three in-class exams (the last exam being the final exam given during exam week). The first and second exams will cover portions of the course; the final exam will cover materials from the entire course. Each exam will consist of a short-answer section and an essay section. [20% each]
Term Paper. One 6-8 pp. paper for this course is required, due on Monday, December 3rd. I will also require you to turn in a series of preliminary exercises as you prepare this paper, including an early draft of your thesis paragraph, an outline of the entire paper, and a list of the books and articles you will cite in your paper. [20%]

Plagiarism: PLEASE TAKE NOTE!
Plagiarism is the intentional or unintentional use of other people's written work without the proper acknowledgments of the work's original source. Plagiarism is a very serious offense and is punishable at UTK by (1) failure of the assignment, (2) failure of the course, and/or (3) expulsion from the university. Therefore, it is your responsibility to learn how to acknowledge properly other people's work (your instructors are always willing to help you figure this out), and it is your responsibility never to hand in work as your own that someone else has done. This means, for example, that you should not hand in a paper you have gotten off an internet site, or a paper you have borrowed from one of your classmates or other friends, or a paper written for you by someone else, even if you have paid that person to do the work for you.

One of the most important things you can learn in college is how to think and write for yourself. You will never have the opportunity to practice these crucial skills again. When you graduate, your thinking and writing skills will get you jobs or lose you jobs, will get you promoted or demoted. Here, you will earn a letter grade for your work, which is just a fraction of your final course grade. You will receive useful comments about your ideas and your writing skills. If you don't put yourself through this kind of training, if you instead choose to rely on work done by others, then you won't be ready for the "big game" once you leave college. And besides, school is a lot more fun when you're not worried about getting caught.

University Disability Statement: Students who have a disability that require accommodation(s) should make an appointment with the Office of Disability Services (974-6087) to discuss their specific needs as well as schedule an appointment with Linda Silvers, Administrative Services Assistant in the College of Arts and Sciences, at 974-4161.

Required Texts
The following works should be purchased or otherwise available to you during class time and at your home, so that you may have a text to read before class time and have a text to refer to during class. In addition, I will ask you to read a series of shorter secondary works, all of which will be put on electronic reserve in Hodges Library.

These required texts are listed here in the order in which we will read them:

**Class Schedule**

Aug. 22  
Course introduction.

Aug. 27  
*Celtic Britain*. “Pwyll, Prince of Dyfed”, pp. 3-20 in *The Mabinogion*.  
Aug. 29  
“Branwen, Daughter of Llyr”, pp. 21-34 in *The Mabinogion*.

Sept. 3  
***Reserve Reading on the Celts:***
1. Megaw, “In Search of the Celts” in *Celtic Art*, pp. 9-23

Sept. 5  
“Manawydan, Son of Llyr”, pp. 35-46 in *The Mabinogion*. *First Reading Response Due.*

Sept. 10  
“Math, Son of Mathonwy”, pp. 47-63 in *The Mabinogion*.

Sept. 12  
*Slide Lecture* on Celtic and Anglo-Saxon Art and Artifacts

Sept. 17  
*Anglo-Saxon Heroic Culture.*

Beowulf, pp. 3-89.

Sept. 19  
Beowulf, pp. 89-149. *Second Reading Response Due.*

Sept. 24  
***Reserve Reading on Anglo-Saxon culture:***

Sept. 26  
Beowulf, pp. 149-213.

Oct. 1  
**FIRST EXAM**  
[Oct. 1--Last Day to Drop with a “W”]

Oct. 3  
*Late Medieval Piety and Performance*  
York Mystery Plays, pp. ix-xxx (General Introduction)  
*Slide Lecture* on Late Medieval Art

Oct. 8  
York Mystery Plays, pp. 1-20

*Don’t Forget:* Friday, Sept. 13*th* is *Medieval and Renaissance Day* on campus! Join us at Circle Park (10am - 4pm) for costumed fun, food, music, demonstrations, exhibits, and more! [web.utk.edu/~marco for details]
Oct. 10--No class--Fall Break

Oct. 15  York Mystery Plays, pp. 20-47
Oct. 17  ***Reserve Reading on Medieval Britain:
        4. Pearsall, “The Cultural and Social Setting” in Medieval Britain, pp. 3-38 (in 2 parts)

Third Reading Response Due.

Oct. 22  York Mystery Plays, pp. 48-78; 211-21; 267-79
Oct. 24  The mystery plays in performance.

Oct. 29  Malory and the Matter of Britain
        King Arthur, pp. 3-70.

Nov. 5   King Arthur, pp. 157-226.
Nov. 7   SECOND EXAM

Nov. 12  Elizabethan England & Issues of Identity
        Henry IV, part i; Acts I & II
        [Nov. 12--Last Day to Drop with “WP/WF” grade]
Nov. 14  Henry IV, part i; Acts III, IV, and V

Nov. 19  ***Reserve Reading on Elizabethan England:

        Slide Lecture on Tudor Sovereigns and the Rise of Portraiture
Nov. 21  Henry V, Acts I & II  Fifth Reading Response Due.

Nov. 26  Henry V, Acts III, IV & V
Nov. 28--No class--Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 3   Review Class. Term Papers Due.

Tuesday, December 10th, 5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – FINAL EXAM