The supernatural figures largely in Scotland’s literature and culture. Scottish ballads are filled with stories of strange creatures and weird doings. Scottish castles are filled with ghosts and spirits. Witches wander through Shakespeare’s *Macbeth* and the poetry of Robert Burns. There’s a Scottish Frankenstein. Jekyll becomes Hyde. And the devil lurks everywhere. “Scottish Tales” will study the literature, films, and culture of Scotland, examining its supernatural component from the earliest ballads to contemporary fiction and film. Set in Edinburgh, one of Europe’s most beautiful cities, the program will include visits to castles, tours of the city, and field trips to the Scottish Highlands and Glasgow.

Readings for English 163 include novels by Robert Louis Stevenson, James Hogg, and Alasdair Grey, William Shakespeare’s *Macbeth*, and poems of Robert Burns. We’ll also read a number of shorter works by past and contemporary writers and we’ll watch a selection of Scottish films to trace the lines between the supernatural, the surreal, and the hallucinatory.

English 198 is designed to introduce students to the rich cultural history of Scotland. The course is built around field trips to museums, places of historical interest, and an all-day trip to Glasgow. In the middle of the course we’ll travel to the Scottish Highlands where we’ll spend two nights in small, charming inns. We’ll tour the Culloden Battlefield, site of the last major battle fought on British soil, and cruise Loch Ness wherein, legend tells us, dwells a strange serpent.

**Required Texts**

William Shakespeare, *Macbeth*
James Hogg: *The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner*
Robert Louis Stevenson: *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*
Alasdair Gray: *Poor Things*
*Course Reader*

**Course Work**

**Responses for English 163.** Students will write three (600–700 word) papers on assigned topics in response to readings and films viewed in the course. The range of this will be broad, including cinematic, dramatic, and narrative techniques as a reflection of course themes. Read each prompt carefully before you begin writing. If you have questions about the prompt, please raise them in class.

**Final Examinations for English 163.** Students will write essay examinations in response to questions about principle themes in the course.

Grades for English 163 will be based on the following components:

- Three short papers 45%
- One exam 15%
- Class discussion 35%

Grades for English 198 will be Pass/No Pass only, based on field notes and journal.
Scottish Tales
Schedule of Assignments and Fieldtrips

Note: This syllabus subject to change
Reading that are underlined are found in the Course Reader

WEEK 1: Ghosts, Seers, and the Truths They Tell

Sat  June 22  Arrive in Edinburgh
Sun  June 23  Site Orientation: 10 am at Bainfield Apartments Office;
              Walking Tour: Eric Liddell Center, Bruntsfield Links, the Meadows, University
              District to the Royal Mile and Back.
Mon  June 24  Course Introduction: Folktales: Stories We Tell About Ourselves
              Reading: The Cruel Mother; “The Executor,” “The Pig’s Head,” “The Ghost in the
              Tent,” “The Girl at the Gothans.” In Class: Britannia.
              Afternoon Fieldtrip: The Royal Mile walking tour. 1 PM
Tues June 25  Guest Lecture: Stuart McHardy: Scholar, Musician, and Storyteller.
              Reading: Burns, Ferguson, Ballads: “Twa Korbies,” “The Great Seal of Sule
              Skerry.” MacDiarmid, “Tam Mackie’s Trial.”
Wed  June 26  Reading Response #1 due at the beginning of class
              Reading: Hogg, Confessions of a Justified Sinner
              Afternoon Fieldtrip: Tour of the National Museum of Scotland. 2 PM.
Thur June 27  Film: Restless Natives with screenwriter Ninian Dunnett

WEEK 2: Forces Light and Dark: (Demons, Fairies, Witches and Warlocks)

Mon July  1  Reading Response #2 due at the beginning of class
              Reading: Hogg, Confessions of a Justified Sinner
              Afternoon Fieldtrip: Tour of the National Museum of Scotland. 2 PM.
Tues July  2  Reading: Excerpt from Golf in the Kingdom; “The Smith and the Fairies,”
              “Tam Lin,” “Thomas the Rhymer.”
              Afternoon Fieldtrip: Pitch/Putt Golf at Bruntsfield Links. 1 PM.
Wed July  3  Morning Fieldtrip: Arthur’s Seat trek at 6 AM, aka “A Cold Arduous Journey
              Followed by a Hot Scottish Breakfast.”
              Group Breakfast: Café Grande
              Reading: Sinclair, Kirk
Thur July  4  Film: Film TBA and discussion of Scottish History
              Afternoon Fieldtrip: Afternoon Tea at the Caley
              2 PM: Corner of Lothian Road and Shandwick Pl.

WEEK 3: Shape Shifters, or, the Animal Inside Us All

Mon July  8  Fieldtrip: Scottish Highlands (Broadford, Isle of Skye)
              Reading: “The Seal Wife,” “MacCodrum of the Seals.”
Tues July  9  Fieldtrip: Scottish Highlands (Loch Ness; Inverness)
              Reading: “The Loch Ness Kelpie,” “Morag and the Waterhorse.”
Wed July 10  Fieldtrip: Scottish Highlands (Culloden, Return to Edinburgh)
Thur July 11  Reading: Stevenson, Jekyll & Hyde.
Fri July 12  All Day Field Trip: Glasgow/ Poor Things Picture Hunt (with optional
            overnight)

WEEK 4: Monsters of Our Own Making
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<th>Activity</th>
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<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>July 15</td>
<td><strong>Film:</strong> <em>Seachd</em> with Ninian Dunnett</td>
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<td>Tues</td>
<td>July 16</td>
<td><strong>Reading Response #3 due at the beginning of class</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Reading:</strong> Gray, <em>Poor Things</em></td>
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<td>Wed</td>
<td>July 17</td>
<td><strong>Reading:</strong> “Mester Stoorworm,” “The Black Bull of Noroway,” “The Skull,”</td>
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<td>“The Two Hunchbacks.”</td>
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<td>Other readings TBA.</td>
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<td>Thur</td>
<td>July 18</td>
<td><strong>Reading:</strong> Welsh</td>
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<td><strong>Film:</strong> <em>Trainspotting</em> with Ninian Dunnett</td>
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<td>Afternoon: Take Home Final Exam Due by 6 pm</td>
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<td><strong>Evening:</strong> Farewell Dinner at the Magnum (Albany and Dublin, New Town)</td>
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<td>Fri</td>
<td>July 19</td>
<td><strong>Check Out of Dorm</strong></td>
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**Reading Response #1: *Macbeth***
In your opinion is *Macbeth* best explained as a play about the supernatural or the psychological? Explain your reasoning using the text to illuminate your response. This response should be a **minimum** of 600-700 words.

**Reading Response #2: The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner***
In your opinion why does Hogg shift narrative perspectives in the *Confessions*? Feel free to draw on rationale from outside reading, but make certain that you anchor your response in *Confessions* itself. This response should be a **minimum** of 600-700 words.

**Reading Response #3: *Poor Things***
*Poor Things* has been called “the Scottish, feminist Frankenstein.” Do you agree that Gray presents a feminist take on the classic monster tale? Use evidence from the text to support your position one way or the other, in addition to any outside readings that you find relevant to a feminist interpretation of the novel.