**Proposal for NEW COURSE**

**Course Title:** Special Topics: Discovering The Celts  
**Course Code:** IDS-199  
**Credit Hours:** 3.0  
**Contact Hours:** 3.0  
**Class Maximum:** 35  
**Implementation Semester:** Fall 2006  
**Prerequisites:** C- or better in Academic Reading and Writing Intro. To Composition OR placement in Composition  
**Corequisites:** None  
**Other Requirements:** None  
**Course Description:** An introduction to Celtic society, from prehistory to the present day. Topics will include: language, culture and religion; myth and legend; formation and consolidation of ethnic identity; nationalism, pan-Celticism, and romantic revivalism. Contemporary debates about Celtic peoples and cultures will be examined from the perspectives of archeology, political science and sociology.  
**Rationale:** This course will expand the college’s offerings in Interdisciplinary Studies, and serve as a Liberal Arts elective. It will also contribute to the “internationalization” of the Liberal Arts degree program, which has been identified as an important element in the program review taking place at present. The course will be offered in even-numbered years (rotating with SOC*242, Sociology of Deviance)  
**Additional Resources Needed:**  
**DVD:** The Celts: Rich Traditions and Ancient Myths (BBC Video)  
**BOOKS:**  
Peter Berresford Ellis: A Brief History of the Celts, (Constable & Robinson, 2003)  
Simon James: The Atlantic Celts, (University of Wisconsin Press, 1999)

**ROUTING, ENDORSEMENTS, APPROVALS:**

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## Course Title:
Special Topics: Discovering The Celts

## Department:
Social Sciences

## Curriculum:
Interdisciplinary Studies

### Course Descriptors:
(Make certain that the course descriptors are consistent with college and Board of Trustees policies, and the current course numbering system.)

#### Course Code:
IDS-199

#### Course Type:
\[D \text{ or } L\]

#### Credit Hours:
3.0

#### Developmental:
No

#### Lecture:
3.0

#### Lab:
0.0

#### Clinical:
0.0

#### TOTAL:
3.0

#### Class Maximum:
35

#### Semesters Offered:
Fall 06 & alt. years

### Prerequisites:
C- or better in Academic Reading and Writing: Intro. To Compositio) OR placement in Composition

### Corequisites:
None

### Other Requirements:
None

### Catalog Course Description:
An introduction to Celtic society, from prehistory to the present day. Topics include language, culture and religion; myth and legend; formation and consolidation of ethnic identity; nationalism and pan-Celticism. Contemporary debates about Celtic peoples and cultures will be examined from the perspectives of archeology, political science and sociology.

### Course Objectives & Their Evaluation:
(A broad, content-based statement about what the instructor will attempt to achieve in the course.)

1. To introduce students to the Celtic peoples and cultures from their origins to the present day.
2. To make students familiar with current debates about Celtic origins and identity.

Students will be given four essay tests and three short papers. The latter will be based upon topics suggested by the instructor.

### Specific Outcomes:
(Measurable skills students will be expected to demonstrate or specific tasks the student should be able to perform, as evidence that the course content has been mastered.)

1. Distinguish between popular conceptions of the term “Celtic” and its use in the social sciences and humanities.
2. Describe and evaluate the process of ethnogenesis as it applies to the peoples who call themselves Celts.
3. Analyze and evaluate the social, cultural, and political forces that shape the individual and society. (GenEd Outcome 5.19)

### Topical Outline:
Week 1: Europe’s first great civilization?
   a. The ‘Keltoi’ and the Greeks
   b. Origins and development of the Celtic languages

Week 2: Celtic art and artifacts from the pre-Christian era
a. The late Bronze Age, Hallstatt culture, the Hochdorf burial
b. The Iron Age and La Tène culture

Weeks 3-4: War, mythology and religion in the Celtic world

a. The warrior elite in Celtic society
b. The Irish and Welsh myths
c. The druids
d. The Celtic pantheon of gods

Week 5: The Celts and the Romans

a. The conquest of Gaul and the Ibero-Celts
b. The invasions of Britain

Weeks 6-7: The ‘Celtic’ nations emerge

a. Wales: the Britons and the Saxon expansion
b. Scotland: Picts, Celts and Dàl Riata
c. Ireland: the chieftains, the ‘Golden Age’ and the Viking and Anglo-Norman invasions
d. Brittany: the Welsh and Cornish settlement, the Norman invasion

Weeks 8-9: The loss of independence and the crisis of identity

a. The assimilation of Wales; Llywelyn’s defeat and Glyndŵr’s rebellion
b. The end of the Scottish clans; the Jacobite rebellion and the Highland clearances
c. The garrison of Ireland, the Plantations and Cromwell’s suppression
d. The partition of Brittany and cultural assimilation by revolutionary France

Weeks 10-11: The 18th and 19th centuries

a. Edward Lhuyd and the rediscovery of the Celts; Romanticism and Celtomania
b. Wales: the decline of the language and the founding of national cultural institutions
c. Mass emigration and the Celtic diaspora in the Americas and Australasia
d. Ireland: the rise of nationalism and the birth of pan-Celticism

Week 12: The 20th century to the present

a. Ireland’s fight for independence
b. The rise of nationalism in Wales and Scotland
c. Saving the Celtic languages from extinction: education, broadcasting and legal protections
d. Preserving the cultural traditions, inventing new ones

Weeks 13-14: Contemporary debates: The Atlantic Celts: fact or fiction?

a. The physical evidence and the assumptions of archeologists
b. Language and identity in the Celtic nations
c. Reclaiming Celtic identity in Europe
d. Galicia and Asturias: the lands that would be Celtic?
e. The recent genetic discoveries

Suggested Instructional Materials

Peter Berresford Ellis: A Brief History of the Celts, (Constable & Robinson, 2003)
Simon James: The Atlantic Celts: Ancient People Or Modern Invention? (University of Wisconsin Press, 1999)

Additional materials such as PowerPoint presentations and streaming video will be made available to students at no additional cost, either via WebCT or via CD-ROM at the reserve desk at the Tunxis library.
| Resources, Equipment, & Special Facilities Required: | See Course Proposal |