

HIS 300
History of Scotland in Media and Memory

T/Th 11:30-12:50

Satisfies: SBS+ [DEC: I]

Thematic Categories: "Arts, Ideas & Culture";
"Empires, Violence & Global Connections"; "Law, Politics & Social Justice"

Professor Ned Landsman

From the heroics of *Braveheart* to the tragedy of Mary Queen of Scots to the Jacobite romance of *Outlander*, the small nation of Scotland has long held an out-sized place in literature and legend. Indeed, as often as not Scots themselves participated in the deliberate creation of such stories. Behind all of that is the story of a people who played an anything but romantic role in fostering key aspects of the development of Britain, Europe, the United States and the western world. Indeed, on key occasions they have played distinctive and out-sized roles in those developments, for better or for worse. Those include everything from capitalist theory (think Adam Smith), the Enlightenment, and global commerce, to imperialism, militarism, and plantation slavery. Scotland historically has had an exceptionally mobile population – probably the most prolific migrants in early modern western Europe. In the process they spread their influence to Ireland, North America, and distant reaches of empire. Scotland was unusual among western nations in voluntarily ceding independence and nationhood in the Anglo-Scottish union of 1707 that created Great Britain. In recent years they have done much to return the question of national independence to the political agenda.