

# Celtic Studies

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## Overview

The Celtic Studies Program is a degree program within the Department of Scandinavian at the University of California, Berkeley. Its purpose is to bring together faculty and students with interests in the cultures, languages, literature, and history of the Celtic regions.

The undergraduate major in Celtic Studies allows for interdisciplinary exploration; students may choose relevant electives from courses taught in the departments of Scandinavian, Comparative Literature, English, Anthropology, History, and History of Art. Irish and Welsh language and literature (in all their historical phases), and in the history, mythology, and cultures of the Celtic world are emphasized. The program has an innovative linkage of language and literature-in-translation courses intended to allow students maximum flexibility in pursuing their studies.

Breton is occasionally offered; courses in the history and structure of the older Celtic languages (Old and Middle Irish, Medieval Welsh) are regularly offered. Students may complete an undergraduate major or minor in Celtic studies; for information on major and minor requirements, please click below on the Celtic Studies link under Undergraduate Program.

The Celtic Studies Program accepts entrants to its major from both freshmen and transfer students. Our major is not impacted and welcomes application from Celtic Studies enthusiasts.

UC Berkeley has no organized graduate program in Celtic Studies. (Harvard has the only such program in the U.S.) However, the Berkeley campus has a varied and high-quality set of resources in the area of Celtic Studies, focused around our undergraduate Celtic Studies Program. Many graduate students take advantage of these resources while earning graduate degrees in departments such as English (<http://english.berkeley.edu>), Linguistics (<http://www.linguistics.berkeley.edu>), History (<http://history.berkeley.edu>), Comparative Literature (<http://ls.berkeley.edu/dept/complit>), or Anthropology (<http://ls.berkeley.edu/dept/anth/dept.html>) (our Anthropology Department has a Folklore Program (<http://ls.berkeley.edu/dept/folklore>)). For example, you could do a Comparative Literature degree with one or more Celtic Languages among your chosen language areas; you could do an Anthropology or Linguistics degree with your chosen area being a Celtic culture or language(s); and so on. You would naturally have access to our Celtic language and culture courses in making up your curriculum in one of these departments. Members of the Celtic Studies faculty could serve on your doctoral dissertation committee in one of these departments. It is also possible to combine a PhD program in any of these departments with Medieval Studies (<http://medieval.berkeley.edu>) to obtain a joint degree.

## Undergraduate Program

Celtic Studies (<http://guide.berkeley.edu/archive/2014-15/undergraduate/degree-programs/celtic-studies>): BA, Minor

## Graduate Program

There is no graduate program in Celtic Studies. (See above for options for pursuing Celtic Studies at the graduate level.)

## Celtic Studies

### CELTIC R1A Voices of the Celtic World 4 Units

Reading and composition course based on works of Celtic writers both in English and in translations from Celtic languages. In addition to training in textual analysis and descriptive and argumentative writing, the courses will discuss the notion of Celtic "voices": distinctive modes of cultural expression chosen by important authors from a Celtic milieu. Readings will be chosen from a variety of modern Irish, Welsh, highland Scots, and Breton writers. R1A satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement, and R1B satisfies the second half.

### Rules & Requirements

**Prerequisites:** UC Entry Level Writing Requirement or equivalent; R1A or equivalent is prerequisite to R1B

**Requirements this course satisfies:** Satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement

### Hours & Format

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Summer:** 6 weeks - 10 hours of lecture per week

### Additional Details

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam not required.

**Formerly known as:** 1A-1B

### CELTIC R1B Voices of the Celtic World 4 Units

Reading and composition course based on works of Celtic writers both in English and in translations from Celtic languages. In addition to training in textual analysis and descriptive and argumentative writing, the courses will discuss the notion of Celtic "voices": distinctive modes of cultural expression chosen by important authors from a Celtic milieu. Readings will be chosen from a variety of modern Irish, Welsh, highland Scots, and Breton writers. R1A satisfies the first half of the Reading and Composition requirement, and R1B satisfies the second half.

### Rules & Requirements

**Prerequisites:** R1A or equivalent

**Requirements this course satisfies:** Satisfies the second half of the Reading and Composition requirement

### Hours & Format

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Summer:** 6 weeks - 10 hours of lecture per week

### Additional Details

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam not required.

**Formerly known as:** 1B

**CELTIC 15 Elementary Modern Irish 4 Units**

A beginning course in Modern Irish. Students will be learning the basics of Irish grammar, and developing ability to understand, speak, read and write the language.

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

**CELTIC 16 Introduction to Modern Welsh 4 Units**

Introduction to modern Welsh conversation and grammar. Emphasis in the first-semester class is on pronunciation, mastering consonant mutations, using several tenses (present, perfect, imperfect, past), and the acquisition of basic vocabulary and idiom. Simple written materials based on traditional Welsh stories will supplement classroom oral-aural work.

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

**Instructors:** Klar, Rejhon

**CELTIC 70 The World of the Celts 4 Units**

An overview of the history of Celtic-speaking peoples from Indo-European times, including linguistic/archaeological evidence for the emergence of the Celtic language group in 1st millennium B.C. Europe. Celtic religion and comparative Indo-European mythology. Discussion of the validity of classical reports of the Celtic culture. Celtic tribal migrations in the historical period; the foundation of Brittany. The decline and suppression of modern Celtic languages; Celts in the New World.

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Summer:**

6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

8 weeks - 5.5 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

**Instructor:** Melia

**CELTIC 85 Intermediate Modern Irish 4 Units**

The second semester of Modern Irish. Continuing instruction in speaking, comprehension, reading and writing skills. By the end of this semester, students will have become acquainted with all of the central grammatical constructions of Irish, and will be ready to begin reading accessible Irish prose.

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** 15; or 5 and 75

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

**CELTIC 86 Intermediate Modern Welsh 4 Units**

Continuation of Celtic Studies 16, emphasizing progress in conversation, grammar, and idiom. Using tenses previously learned, students will learn how to ask and answer many types of questions and will learn conjugated prepositions and idiomatic uses of prepositions. Future and conditional tenses and simple relative clauses will be introduced. Level-appropriate written materials will supplement class work, and students will begin learning about Welsh culture as they learn the language.

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** 16; or 6 and 76 or consent of instructor

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

**Instructors:** Klar, Rejhon

**CELTIC 98 Directed Group Study 1 - 4 Units**

Group study of selected topics not covered by regularly scheduled courses.

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** Freshman or sophomore standing

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

CELTIC 99 Supervised Independent Study and Research 1 - 4 Units  
Directed individual study on special topics approved by Celtic Studies.

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** Freshman and Sophomore standing and consent of instructor

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

CELTIC 102A Elementary Breton 4 Units

This course will teach students to speak, read, and write modern literary Breton. We will follow the curriculum established by the only good introductory Breton text in English, which I will supplement with exercises and readings from current Breton publications and contemporary literature. Students will have covered most of the grammar of Breton by the end of the course.

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

**Instructor:** Sweetser

CELTIC 102B Advanced Breton 4 Units

Advanced readings in Breton. Continuation of Celtic Studies 102A. This course will teach students to speak, read, and write modern literary Breton. It will follow the curriculum established by the only good Breton text in English, which will be supplemented with exercises and readings from current Breton publications and contemporary literature.

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** 102A

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

**Instructor:** Sweetser

CELTIC 105A Old and Middle Irish 4 Units

A detailed introduction to the orthography, phonology and grammar of Old Irish designed to provide the student with the subsequent capacity to read with comprehension and to translate (with the aid of dictionary or glossary) any edited text in Old Irish or Middle Irish.

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** 5 and 75 or consent of instructor

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

CELTIC 119A Welsh and Arthurian Literature of the Middle Ages 4 Units

A selective study of major surviving works of Welsh prose and poetry of the Middle Ages, with special attention to the development of the legendary history of King Arthur in Europe. All work will be read in English, but course will be coordinated with 106A-106B for those who wish to do some of the readings in Welsh.

**Rules & Requirements**

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit as topic varies. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

CELTIC 119B Welsh and Arthurian Literature of the Middle Ages 4 Units

A selective study of major surviving works of Welsh prose and poetry of the Middle Ages, with special attention to the development of the legendary history of King Arthur in Europe. All work will be read in English, but course will be coordinated with 106A-106B for those who wish to do some of the readings in Welsh.

**Rules & Requirements**

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit as topic varies. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture and 1 hour of discussion per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

**CELTIC 125 Irish Literature in Translation 4 Units**

A selective study of key themes in modern Irish literature. Texts will include novels, short stories, and poetry and will concentrate on translations of works originally written in Irish. All work will be read in English, but the course will be coordinated with 75 or 115A-115B for those who wish to do some of the reading in Irish.

**Rules & Requirements**

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit with consent of instructor. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

**Formerly known as:** 125A-125B

**CELTIC 128 Medieval Celtic Culture 4 Units**

A study of medieval Celtic culture, its society, laws, religion, history, and the daily life of the Celtic peoples, as they are reflected in a selection of texts ranging from medieval literary works to legal texts and historical chronicles. All works will be read in English translation.

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

**Instructor:** Rejohn

**CELTIC 129 Aspects of Modern Celtic Cultures and Folklore 4 Units**

A comparative introduction to modern Celtic cultures: principally Irish, Welsh, Scottish Gaelic and Breton. The development of the distinctive cultures of the Celtic "nations without states" from 1500 to the present; an examination of the role of minority cultures and minority languages in larger political cultural entities. Theme topics will vary, but will include folklore, nationalism and linguistic history from time to time.

**Rules & Requirements**

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit as topic varies. Course may be repeated for a maximum of 6 units.

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

**CELTIC 138 Irish Literature 4 Units**

Gaelic literature 700-1800 (in translation). Study of the prose saga-cycles, satire, classical lyric poetry, and bardic poetry, developing the mythological and traditional background of modern Irish literature.

**Rules & Requirements**

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit with consent of instructor. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

**CELTIC 139 Irish Literature 4 Units**

Irish literature 1800 to the present.

**Rules & Requirements**

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit with consent of instructor. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

**CELTIC 144A Modern Welsh Level 3 4 Units**

This course continues the Celtic Studies 16-86 sequence. Advanced grammatical concepts are introduced and vocabulary building (especially idioms) is emphasized. Students read materials such as magazines, newspapers, catalogues, and popular novels. Regular language laboratory attendance is required.

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** 16 and 86 or consent of instructor

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

**CELTIC 144B Modern Welsh Level 4 4 Units**

This course continues the Celtic Studies 16-86-144A sequence.

Emphasis is on mastering the fine details of Welsh grammar (including prepositional idioms), accent reduction, and acquiring conversational ease. Dialect information is introduced. Supplementary reading will introduce students to the standard literary languages; brief compositional exercises will be based on this material.

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** 144A or consent of instructor

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

**CELTIC 145A Intermediate Irish Language 4 Units**

The third level course in modern spoken Irish designed for students who have completed two semesters of formal instruction. Continued stress on vocabulary building and reading of texts with intensive conversation drills to activate the learned vocabulary. Idiomatic usage will be reinforced in both oral and written exercises. Class activities will include conversation and discussion of assigned texts in Irish.

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** Two semesters Irish language or consent of instructor

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

**CELTIC 145B Modern Irish Level Four 4 Units**

The fourth semester of Modern Irish. Readings in Irish literature will be a major focus of the curriculum, but will also be accompanied by advanced grammatical instruction and conversational practice.

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** 145A or consent of instructor

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

**CELTIC 146A Medieval Welsh Language and Literature 4 Units**

Selected works of medieval Welsh prose and poetry are read in Middle Welsh. Grammar instruction and in-class translations accompany lectures on important themes in medieval Welsh literature.

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

**Instructors:** Klar, Rejhon

**CELTIC 146B Medieval Welsh Language and Literature 4 Units**

A selection of medieval Welsh prose and poetry is read in Middle Welsh in conjunction with lectures on key themes in medieval Welsh literature and tradition.

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** 106A or consent of instructor

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

**Instructors:** Klar, Rejhon

**CELTIC 161 Celtic Linguistics 4 Units**

Topics in the linguistics of the Celtic languages. Likely subject matters include synchronic structure of a Celtic language or languages, history of the Celtic language family, philology and paleography of older Celtic texts, sociolinguistics of the modern Celtic languages, linguistic characteristics of Celtic poetic, and oral traditional literature.

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** Prior acquaintance with at least one Celtic language, consent of instructor

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

**CELTIC C168 Celtic Mythology and Oral Tradition 4 Units**

The course will introduce students to the pre-Christian beliefs of the Celtic and Indo-European worlds, to the historical narratives in which such beliefs are embedded, and to the methodology of investigating ancient and medieval belief systems.

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

**Also listed as:** RELIGST C109

**CELTIC 170 Topics in Celtic Studies 4 Units**

Topics in this course will be offerings on areas of Celtic language and culture which are not covered in other Celtic studies courses. Topics might include (but would not be limited to) the Celtic romantic tradition, the Celt in films, Celtic art, nationalist politics in Celtic regions, and current trends in Celtic research.

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** Completion of reading and composition 1A-1B or equivalents; consent of instructor

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit as topic varies. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Summer:** 6 weeks - 8 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

**CELTIC 171 Celtic Romanticism 4 Units**

From the Classical age to the 21st century, Celts have fascinated people. This course explores the different ways in which Celtic peoples have been perceived by outsiders, and the ways in which Celts have presented themselves to the world. The recurring themes of freedom and independence, as well as the warrior and druid types, are stressed. The course also explores the ways in which the Romantic idealizations of Celts have been appropriated by native nationalist political movements and by European imperialist ventures. All readings in English.

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

**Instructor:** Klar

**CELTIC 173 Celtic Christianity 4 Units**

This course considers the evidence for the presence of early Christian believers in the so-called "Celtic" areas of western Europe. Students will examine how the Celtic peoples received Christianity in the context of native (pagan) religion; they will look specifically at how the Roman Church doctrine influenced the doctrinal stands of the early Celtic church(es), and vice versa, with particular attention to the Pelagian controversy, the date of Easter, the monastic tonsure, and the use of penitentials. The period covered is approximately 70 CE to 800 CE.

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 3 hours of lecture per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. Final exam required.

**Instructor:** Klar

**CELTIC H195A Honors Course 3 Units**

Course may take one or two semesters at the option of the instructor and student with credit to be earned upon completion of a successful thesis. Successful completion of the course will normally, but not necessarily, mean the awarding of honors.

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** Open only to honors seniors in the group major in Celtic Studies

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. This is part one of a year long series course. A provisional grade of IP (in progress) will be applied and later replaced with the final grade after completing part two of the series. Final exam not required.

**CELTIC H195B Honors Course 3 Units**

Course may take one or two semesters at the option of the instructor and student with credit to be earned upon completion of a successful thesis. Successful completion of the course will normally, but not necessarily, mean the awarding of honors.

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** Open only to honors seniors in the group major in Celtic Studies

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Letter grade. This is part two of a year long series course. Upon completion, the final grade will be applied to both parts of the series. Final exam not required.



**CELTIC 198 Directed Group Study 1 - 4 Units**

Directed group study on special topics approved by Celtic Studies.

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** 60 units and in good academic standing

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 1-4 hours of directed group study per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.

**CELTIC 199 Supervised Independent Study and Research 1 - 4 Units**

Directed individual study on special topics approved by Celtic Studies.

**Rules & Requirements**

**Prerequisites:** 60 units and in good academic standing

**Repeat rules:** Course may be repeated for credit. Course may be repeated for credit when topic changes.

**Hours & Format**

**Fall and/or spring:** 15 weeks - 0 hours of independent study per week

**Additional Details**

**Subject/Course Level:** Celtic Studies/Undergraduate

**Grading/Final exam status:** Offered for pass/not pass grade only. Final exam not required.