



大学英语后续拓展课程系列教材

# 英美经典 影视与文化教程

主 编 · 孙建光 王春梅

*Anglo-American Classic Movies and Culture*



东南大学出版社  
SOUTHEAST UNIVERSITY PRESS

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· 南京 ·

## 内容提要

本书以历史、信仰、名人、节日、教育、皇室、传奇及文学经典等为主线,选取了经典的电影,在介绍了这些影片的背景知识和故事情节的基础之上,通过设置的社会、历史、文化等板块帮助学习者在欣赏影片、提升语言能力的同时拓展知识面,培养思辨能力,树立符合国情和责任担当的价值观。

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# 前言

## PREFACE

欣赏英文电影是大学生学习英语、了解英美国家社会文化的一个重要手段,然而,很多大学生欣赏英文影片仅满足于视觉享受和情节观赏,忽略了影片本身所体现的社会文化价值以及影片对白中的语言价值。编者在大学开设“英美影视与文化”课程多年,其间一直积极思考与探索如何才能更充分地发掘英文影片的教学价值,因而完成了本教程的编写。希望本教程既能为大学生观赏电影提供新的视角,也能在一定程度上提高他们的英文水平和对英美国家社会文化的认知。

《英美经典影视与文化教程》突破了传统的影视欣赏较为单一的层面,聚焦于影视中的文化因素,使得学生通过影视欣赏,了解西方人的语言思维、文化思维,既能模仿地道的英语表达,又能了解西方人的文化思维及文化知识,实现英语教育模式的立体化。

本教程共分八个单元,涵盖了历史、信仰、名人、节日、教育、皇室、传奇及文学经典等西方文化的主要领域:第一单元以历史为主线,让学生了解英格兰历史、美国独立战争史和第二次世界大战的相关历史知识。通过影视欣赏,学生能够对英格兰和美利坚民族的创国史有深刻的认识,同时能深入思考战争的残酷性,激励青年学生树立起爱国情怀,捍卫来之不易的当代和平生活。第二单元以宗教为主线,介绍了英国和美国的主要宗教派别,并对各教派之间的联系与区别有一种直观的认识。同时还选取了圣经故事、诺亚方舟的故事,教育人类要具有爱心、善心。第三单元以名人为主线,选取了具有代表性的人物。撒切尔夫人是英国历史上第一位女首相,创造了蝉联三届、也是自19世纪初利物浦伯爵以来连任时间最长的英国首相。她是英国历史上最优秀的首相之一。亚伯拉罕·林肯任总统期间,美国爆发内战,史称“南北战争”。林肯坚决反对国家分裂,他废除了奴隶制度,颁布了《宅地法》《解放黑人奴隶宣言》。林肯击败了南方分离势力,维护了美利坚联邦的统一。内战结束后不久,作为首位共和党总统的林肯遇刺身亡。他是第一位遭遇刺杀的美国总统,多次被评为美国历史上最伟大的总统。马克·艾略特·扎克伯格,社交网站Facebook(脸书)的创始人兼首席执行官,被人们冠以“第二盖茨”的美誉,曾是全球最年轻的自行创业亿万富豪。这些人物具有典型性,或是为国家发展,或是维护国家统一,或是青年创业精英等,具有满满的正能量。第四单元以西方假日为主线,重点选取了圣诞节前夕暖人的爱情故事、土拨鼠日和复活节等故事或人物,以凸显大爱和邪恶与抗争等主旋律,培养学生的博爱之心及勇于和邪恶势力作斗争的勇气。

第五单元以教育为主线,让学生了解美国与英国教育现状、体系及改革相关知识,使学生能结合我国教育现状进行思辨性分析比较。第六单元以英国皇室生活为主线,让学生了解英国的皇室生活、主要代表性人物,对英国的君主立宪制能有比较深刻的理解,同时可以思考为什么该制度在我国无法实行,增强学生对我国社会主义制度优越性的认同感。第七单元以传奇故事为主线,介绍了英美国家传奇人物的伟大英雄形象或采用后现代的解构主义思想,描写小人物的非常规的行为,引导学生树立正确的价值观。第八单元以文学作品为主线,选取了由文学作品改编而来的影视,让学生从读字视角和读图视角来审视文学作品中的人物刻画、情景再现,拓展学生对文学作品的认知度。

本教程选材经典,窥探到人生、命运、友谊、爱情、传统、道德、死亡、迷惘、教育等人性 and 心灵的诸多方面。每部影片都分别介绍了背景知识和故事情节,收录了多段精彩对白,辅以语言文化注释和理解问答,帮助读者体会近似真实生活场景的英语,解答学习者在看、听英语电影过程中遇到的典型问题和困惑,使学习者能流畅地看电影或听录音,每单元还附有影评,学习者可以通过影评,提高其赏析能力,加深对影片内容及其所反映的社会、历史、文化背景的理解和领悟。课后练习设计契合学生的欣赏需求,同时注重提高学生的语言应用能力。

本教程的特色是按照主题编排章节,每个单元三部影片,第一部和第二部影片可供课堂教学,第三部影片可作为自学材料,供同学们进一步拓展使用;除了第六单元外每个单元都包括英美两国的相关影片,有助于读者增进对该类型影片及相关文化的了解。本教程所选影片既有经典的如《乱世佳人》,也有兼具时代性和观赏性的好莱坞大片如《珍珠港》《七宗罪》等。教程全英文写作,对较难的词汇给出了汉语解释;每一单元既提供了影片的基本介绍与相关的文学链接,也提供了配套的练习。本教程既可以作为高等院校大学英语课程的后续拓展课程,也可以作为公共选修课程教材,同时也适合对英文电影及西方文化感兴趣的读者用作参考读物。

本教程由孙建光教授策划统筹,由孙建光、王春梅主编,多位教师参编,具体编写分工如下:周晗负责第一、二单元,王春梅负责第三、四、五、六单元,李利红和王颖璇分别负责第七、第八单元,孙建光负责全书的审订工作。本书在编写过程中得到了朱建新教授、左进教授、张强华教授的大力支持,同时得到了英国学者 Shelley Thomson 的帮助,在此表示衷心感谢。感谢东南大学出版社编审刘坚博士后所提供的大量支持与帮助。本书在编写过程中参考了国内外著作以及网络上的相关内容,由于选材广泛,在主要参考书目处如有疏漏还望谅解,并向相关的作者谨表谢意。由于编者水平有限,难免挂一漏万,书中不足之处肯请使用本教程的教师和同学批评指正。此外,本教程还制作了配套的课件,如果有教学需要,请邮件联系 daisywang1977@126.com。

编者

2017年12月

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## Unit One

### History

- Section A Braveheart
- Section B The Patriot
- Section C Pearl Harbor

#### Preface

We live in an age of information and mass media. Serving as a blessing, film is one of the greatest tools that we have at our disposal, which is an especially powerful medium in providing visual representations of abstract and distant historical concepts.

This unit highlights three historical concepts predominantly: *Braveheart* introduces us a heroic figure during the Wars of Scottish Independence between England and Scotland in the 13th and 14th centuries; *The Patriot* focuses on the story happening on the eve of American Independence War in the 1770s; as the movie name indicates, *Pearl Harbor* is a film of epic and romance focusing on the attack on Pearl Harbor in World War II.

#### Unit Goals

- To have a basic knowledge about British history;
- To have a deep understanding of the causes of the American War of Independence;
- To be able to appraise the historical impact of the attack on Pearl Harbor.





## Section A Braveheart

Every man dies. Not every man really lives.

—William Wallace



### I. Warm-up Questions

1. How did England get its name?
2. When did the present United Kingdom come into being?
3. Do you know anything about William Wallace?



### II. Basics about the Movie

**Genre:** epic, history, war

**Director:** Mel Gibson

**Starring:** Mel Gibson

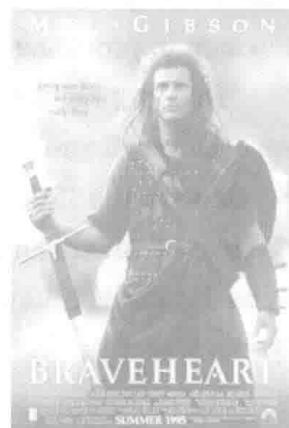
Sophie Marceau

Patrick McGoohan

**Release Year:** 1995

**Running Time:** 178 minutes

**Country:** the United States



### III. Synopsis

Mel Gibson's *Braveheart* is a full-throated, red-blooded battle epic about William Wallace, the legendary Scottish warrior who led his nation into battle against the English in the years around 1300s.

The movie begins from the year 1280 when the king of Britain, King Edward "Longshanks", invades and conquers Scotland following the death of Alexander III of

Scotland, who leaves no heir to the throne. Young William Wallace is a commoner and is taken abroad for education after the death of his father and brother.



Years later, the England king grants his noblemen land and privileges in Scotland, which arouses the local people's resistance, especially *Prima Nocte*. At the same time, the grown Wallace returns home and falls in love with his childhood friend Murron and they marry secretly. His newly-wedded wife is finally captured and publicly executed after her second attempt at defying the King's order. The furious Wallace leads his clan to slaughter the English garrison in his hometown.

Wallace rebels against England, and as his legend spreads, hundreds of Scots from the surrounding clans join him. Longshanks sends his son Prince Edward to stop Wallace by any every possible means. Wallace has a great victory at the Battle of Stirling Bridge and then destroys the city of York and kills the king's nephew. Robert the Bruce, the son of nobleman Robert the Elder and a contender for the Scottish crown, offers a false coalition with Wallace and his intention is detected by Wallace. Longshanks sends his son's wife Isabella of France on a negotiation mission and at the same time prepares for an abrupt attack.

Isabella is entranced by Wallace and warns him of the incoming invasion. Wallace appeals to the Scottish nobility to take up their arms and fight for their lost land. Longshanks confronts Wallace in the battle and wins the upper hand due to the betrayal of two Scottish traitors. Robert the Bruce stops Wallace from pursuing Langshanks and brings him to a safety place. Later, Wallace continues his guerrilla war against England for seven years, during which Wallace develops a romance with Isabella.



she is pregnant with Wallace's child.

Wallace is set up and captured when he has a meeting with Robert. When Robert learns that his father, together with other nobles has handed over Wallace to the English, he breaks with his father. Isabella can also do nothing to save Wallace; however, she confides to the dying Longshanks that

Wallace is tried in public in London. He refuses to submit to the King or beg for mercy and is mercilessly beheaded. Later, Robert leads the army to continue their battle against England and they eventually win freedom for Scots.



## IV. Culture Links

### 1. A Brief History of the United Kingdom

The earliest Britain inhabitants are said to be Mediterranean people who, during the prehistoric period, migrated through the English Channel and settled down. At about 2500 BC, Beaker folk came and they left Britain a mysterious scenic spot—Stonehenge. Subsequently, Britain was invaded by the Celts, the Romans, the Anglo-Saxons, the Vikings and the Normans and later was transformed from an absolute monarchy to a constitutional monarchy.

It is believed that between 1500 and 500 BC Celtic tribes migrated from Central Europe and France to Britain and settled down with the indigenous inhabitants. The Romans tried to invade Britain in 55 BC under Julius Caesar, but weren't successful until 43 AD, during the reign of Emperor Claudius I (克劳狄一世). The Roman rule of Britain ended in 410 AD.

After the Romans left, three Germanic tribes—the Anglos, the Saxons, and the Jutes ruled Britain. They enslaved, killed or drove the Celts to the mountains. They established 7 kingdoms, ruling over all England from about 500 to 850 AD, which were later known as the Anglo-Saxon heptarchy(七国). The country got its name England, “the land of the Anglos”.

At the end of the 8th century, the seven kingdoms got united under Alfred the Great (阿尔弗雷德大帝) in resisting the attacks from the Vikings. Wars continued and powers shifted during the next 130 years.

The Normans conquered Britain in 1066 when Duke William of Normandy challenged the successor of Edward the Confessor, Harold, and killed him at the battle of Hastings. The Norman Conquest is the last invasion of Britain from the alien nations.

After the Normans, Britain witnessed the rule of the House of Anjou(安茹王朝, 1154—1485), also known as the House of Plantagenet(金雀花王朝, 1154—1399), during which period the *Magna Carta*(《大宪章》) was signed under the rule of King John in 1215. The *Magna Carta* granted the townspeople freedom of trade and self-government and compelled the king to rule by law. Therefore, it is regarded as the foundation of the British constitutionalism.

The Hundred Years' War(1337—1453) between England and France and the Wars of the Roses(1455—1485) between two noble families broke out during the 14th century and

the 15th centuries. After the House of York( 约克王朝) and the House of Lancaster( 兰卡斯特王朝), England began its rule of the Tudors( 都铎王朝, 1485—1603).

Britain began the Reformation during the reign of the second monarch of the House of Tudor, Henry VIII. He declared a break with the Roman Catholic Church and announced himself to be the Supreme Head of the Church of England (also called the Anglican Church).

The reign of the Stuarts( 斯图亚特王朝, 1603—1649, 1660—1714) was interrupted as a result of the Civil Wars. Britain was a republic without a king or queen during the interval and the monarchy was restored with the Glorious Revolution. In 1689, *The Bill of Rights*(《权利法案》) was passed and the power of the monarch was limited.

Britain experienced the first Industrial Revolution from 1760 to 1840 during the House of Hanover( 汉诺威王朝, 1714—1901). As a result of it, Britain became the most advanced industrial country in the world. Under the reign of Queen Victoria, Britain's prosperity reached its climax and its colonies were worldwide.

The Windsors( 温莎王朝, 1917—)<sup>①</sup> began to reign at the beginning of the 20th century and witnessed the decline in influence after World War I and World War II. In the 20th century, the United States took the place of the United Kingdom as the strongest and richest country in the world.<sup>②</sup>

## 2. England and Scotland

The full name of Britain is the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, or the UK for short. England and Scotland are two components of the UK, and the other two are Wales and Northern Ireland, but in history Scotland was once an independent country.

A tribe of the Celts called Scots came to the northern part of Britain and established a country called Scotland. In 843 AD, the Kingdom of Scotland came into being and it remained an independent sovereign state for hundreds of years. Wars broke out frequently between the Kingdom of England and the Kingdom of Scotland in the 13th and 14th centuries. During the Wars of Scottish Independence (1296—1328), William Wallace emerged as the principal leader of the resistance to English rule and became a Scottish hero. In 1603, the two countries shared the same ruler but still remained interdependent. It was not until 1707 that the Kingdom of Scotland agreed to enter into a political union with the

① 温莎王朝前身为萨克森—科堡—哥达王朝,因“一战”而引起人们对德国的抵制,1917年改为现名。

② All the dynasties and the monarchs in Britain since 1066 are listed in the end of the book. Please refer to Appendix for further references.



Kingdom of England to create a new Kingdom of Great Britain.

On Sept. 18, 2014, the Scotland held a national referendum to decide whether to break the 307-year union and go it alone as an independent nation or to stick with the United Kingdom. The poll revealed that 55% of Scottish people chose to stay with the UK; the referendum ended with Scotland still being a member of the UK.



## V. Exercises

➤ **Multiple Choices:** Choose the best answer from the four choices given.

1. *Braveheart* is an epic war film directed and starred by a world-famous \_\_\_\_\_, Mel Gibson.  
A. Briton                      B. Scot                      C. Australian                      D. American
2. What is the direct reason for William Wallace's rebel against England?  
A. The death of his father and brother.                      B. The education he received.  
C. The cruelty of the English king.                      D. The death of his wife.
3. Which of the following sentences is not taken from *Braveheart*?  
A. Use your brain before the sword.  
B. Fear can hold you prisoner; hope can set you free.  
C. Every man dies. Not every man really lives.  
D. Your heart is free. Have the courage to follow it.
4. Which of the following words cannot be used to describe Robert the Bruce?  
A. Ambitious.                      B. Treacherous.                      C. Well-to-do.                      D. Helpful.
5. Which of the following never invaded England?  
A. The Vikings.                      B. The Germany.  
C. The Romans.                      D. The Anglo-Saxons.
6. Which of the following statements about Scotland is NOT true?  
A. Of all the four districts in the UK, Scotland is the second largest in terms of land, only second to England.  
B. Scotland is famous for its kilts, bagpipes and brandy.  
C. Scotland has been a sovereign country since 1714.  
D. Scotland lost its chance of being an independent country in 2014 referendum.



7. The House of Anjou was also called \_\_\_\_\_ in history.  
A. the House of York                      B. the House of Lancaster  
C. the House of Hanover                D. the House of Plantagenet
8. \_\_\_\_\_ is regarded as the foundation of the British constitutionalism.  
A. *The Magna Carta*                      B. The Norman Conquest  
C. *The Bill of Rights*                      D. The Reformation

Blank-filling: Fill in the blanks with the missing information.

1. *Braveheart* is an epic directed by \_\_\_\_\_, who also stars the protagonist, a \_\_\_\_\_ warrior and hero.
2. In the movie *Braveheart* refers to \_\_\_\_\_, who rises up and leads his country men to fight against \_\_\_\_\_ and finally sacrifices his own life.
3. England was invaded by many foreign invaders in history, such as \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The rights of the king was first limited by \_\_\_\_\_ under the reign of \_\_\_\_\_, and it was further restrained by \_\_\_\_\_ after the Glorious Revolution.
5. Scotland used to be an independent country during the year \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_. In recent years, the Scottish government and the United Kingdom government reached an agreement and more than 4,300,000 voters participated in the referendum in \_\_\_\_\_.

Translate & Appreciate: Translate the classic lines from the movie into Chinese and share your understandings.

1. Your heart is free. Have the courage to follow it.

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2. Men don't follow titles. They follow courage.

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3. Freedom is the best, I tell thee true, of all things to be won. Then never live within the bond of slavery, my son.

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4. Fight, and you may die. Run, and you'll live at least a while. And dying in your beds many years from now. Would you be willing to trade? All the days from this day to that, for one chance, just one chance, to come back here and tell our enemies that they may take our lives, but they'll never take our Freedom! Freedom—

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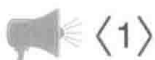


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➤ **Voice Your Opinion:** Read the following reviews about *Braveheart* and voice your opinions on this movie after you finish watching it.



<1>

*Braveheart* received much criticism from certain History Buffs upon its release. They said that the filmmakers portrayed Scotsman William Wallace as a brave, heroic, good man. History Buffs, however, said that he was just as vicious as the English and spared no one. Well, thank you for that, Mr. History Teacher(s). If I wanted to learn about history I wouldn't be going to see a movie starring Mel Gibson, with the tagline "Every man dies. Not every man really lives," would I? I enjoyed every inch of *Braveheart*, and if I wanted a history lesson, I'd go to see *Gods and Generals*, which turned out to be a horrible film—which just goes to show that historical accuracy can sometimes break a film and not make it.

Gibson plays William Wallace, a Scot who decides to revolt against the England after his wife was killed by a pack of the thieving scoundrels! The film is LOOSELY based on his life—since no one really knows much about Wallace other than what he did: free Scotland from the English for a while (when I say "for a while", it is because their "free-e-e-dom!" only lasted for a while...), so much of the story is made up. But as I said, I'm not looking for a history lesson when I go to see a movie like this.

This is a first director outing for Gibson, who not only gives us one of his best—if not the best—performance of his career, other than those great *Lethal Weapon* movies! He handles the direction very well for an actor-turned-director. He doesn't try anything memorable—no fancy camera sweeps to make us motion sick—but he directs the film like the old epics, one of many great things about the film.

The cinematography is excellent. I can't think of another film that is quite so beautiful to behold. It is truly wonderful to watch the surroundings fly by the screen, purely unadulterated.



As for Gibson's Scottish accent... well... he speaks surprisingly well with a Scottish accent, and doesn't sound like an American-Australian phony (Isn't he an Aussie?). There is a great supporting cast in this film, as well, with a man in a rubber nose that you might not be able to place at first glance...

James Horner's magnificent score is truly marvelous to behold. He mixes Scottish bagpipes and emotion into a little bundle, which makes you feel emotional. It plays during the film at just the right moments and makes it easier to feel elated or depressed.

All in all, I think that *Braveheart* stands as one of the best films I have ever seen. It is an epic in all sense of the word; I don't care how historically incorrect it is. If I wanted a history lesson, I wouldn't be going to see a film like this.

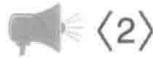
**Key points:** \_\_\_\_\_

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*Braveheart* is quite simply, one of the best and most successful movies ever created and a huge part of that success comes from the efforts extended by Mel Gibson, as he wore three different hats for this masterpiece, those being producer, director and star. The one oddity about this movie for me was that I pretty much wore out my VHS copy of it and had, a couple years ago, purchased the DVD but only just recently took the opportunity to watch it again and no matter how many times you watch this movie, it is still a stunning, compelling and extraordinarily intriguing film that draws you into the life of William Wallace despite already knowing how it's going to end.

The one thing that drives this movie is the spirit that Mel Gibson puts into his character of William Wallace and it is no surprise that *Braveheart* won five Academy Awards, including Best Picture of 1995 and Best Director for Mel Gibson. The only true surprise is that he wasn't among the top five nominated for or won the Best Actor award.

High praise also goes to the long list of supporting actors and actresses that starred in this superb film! The most notable was the performance by Sophie Marceau, one of the most beautiful women on the planet. Patrick McGoohan was absolutely incredible in the role of the villain Longshanks, King Edward I, delivering a memorable performance.

One of the most notable performances in this film, among the many, was the work done



by James Horner who was responsible for the score. As is normally the case when his name appears in the credits, everything about the score, from the first reel to the last, is incredibly well blended into the movie and serves extremely well in enhancing the experience of the movie.

**The Premise:**

As the old saying goes, is it Hollywood or History? The truth is, of course it's a bit of history, put together Hollywood style to make one of the best films ever presented to the audience. The truth behind it is that we'll never know as recorded history from this era is circumspect as best. Where a huge portion of the credit for this film lays is in the hands of Randall Wallace, a descendant of William Wallace's.

As this historic film opens, we see a young William Wallace in Scotland as he's learning the harsh lessons of life in his era. After his family is killed in battle he's fortunate enough to have his Uncle Argyle (played brilliantly by Brian Cox) take him under his wing! Several years later he returns home to find that his countrymen are still suffering under the yoke of English oppression but he didn't come home for that. He came home for Murron MacClannough (Catherine McCormack), seeking her hand in marriage. Unfortunate events unfold from there and William loses the love of his life and goes on a rampage not only to avenge his love but to free his country...

What follows from there is not only one of the best films of the nineties but one of the best films of all times. I highly recommend *Braveheart* to any and all who are interested in seeing what true movie making is about!

**Key points:** \_\_\_\_\_

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Think about the following questions "How do you like the movie *Braveheart*?" "What is the acceptable treatment of history in movies?" before putting down your own reviews of the movie.

**Your opinion:** \_\_\_\_\_

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