Unit Description
The idea that the English suffered under a ‘Norman yoke’ in the centuries after 1066 is a very old one, but was reinvigorated by historians of the late nineteenth century who stressed the ‘Germanic’ credentials of the ‘Anglo-Saxon’ people conquered by that ‘Frenchman’, William, duke of Normandy. The mixed inhabitants of twelfth-century England were critical of their Welsh, Scottish and Irish neighbours, but it was another six hundred before historians began to lump these peoples together as ‘Celts’, and ascribe to them a common culture of which they themselves were quite unaware. This unit seeks to unpick the two strands of this process of identity-formation. What changes occurred in the twelfth century in the national labels contemporaries applied to themselves and others? And what motivated those studying the past in the nineteenth century to think up new categorizations for the medieval inhabitants of the British Isles?

Contact Hours and Mode of Teaching:
1 hour intro to unit + 5 x 2 hour seminars

Methods of Assessment:
1 x 3000 word essay (25%), 1 x 24 hour take home exam (75%)

Essential Reading:
R. R. Davies, *Domination and Conquest: The Experience of Ireland, Scotland and Wales, 1100-1300* (Cambridge, 1990)