

Trimarian Heraldic Online Self-Study Program

Heraldry 101: Basic Armory

Walk Through Syllabus

1. Introduction

Welcome to the Trimarian Heraldic Online Self-Study Program. These online self study classes are a way to learn heraldry via correspondence in case you are unable to attend warranting classes at Kingdom events or don't wait until the next opportunity to attend a class in person. The classes provide the frame work for a self-guided study using the internet. The topics covered aren't hard, but it will be more involved than sitting through a class at an event.

How to get started

Begin with reading the walk through syllabus and follow its instructions. At the end you will be asked to answer a few questions about the topics covered in this class. You will be asked to create a file with your answers and to email to the Trimarian Herald in charge of Education the Coracle Herald. You can send the file as a txt, doc, or pdf. file or just type it into the body of an email. The Coracle Herald will check your answers and respond to your email. If you answered the questions correctly, they will inform you that you have successfully completed the course. In case of mistakes and/or missing answers, they will send you the correct answers and offer to correspond with you until you are both satisfied that you know the answers.

2. Heraldry 101: Basic Armory

In the SCA we recreate the courtly life of the Middle Ages and the Renaissance. A big part of courtly life is heraldry. So what exactly is Heraldry?

If you ask an SCA Herald you will often get the answer, "It's what Heralds do!" This is a popular answer due to the fact that SCA heralds do an awful lot of seemingly unrelated things, from name consultations to crying lists, to name just a few. Outside the SCA you will hear the answer, "Heraldry is the art and science of armorial bearings." By this they mean the creation and registration of what most people call "coats of arms". In the SCA we refer to these as "devices" until the recipient carries an Award of Arms at which point a "device" will be called a "coat of arms." Other types of armorial bearings include badges and ensigns (flags). In the SCA we call this part of heraldry "Armory" or "Armoial Sciences," and sometimes – colloquially - "picture heraldry." Other big parts of SCA heraldry revolves around the creation and registration of period Names, also called "Book Heraldry," the announcing and calling out of various things in court and on the field and site which is called "Voice Heraldry," or "Silent Heraldry" if you are signing for the hearing impaired and deaf. There is also "Protocol Heraldry" which deals with order of lists, traditions, history and other such things.

This class is going to focus on just the armory part. It is designed for two types of people: curious SCA members who want to learn heraldry on their own to create their own devices, and new heralds who are intrested in learning so they can better serve their local group and/or friends.

Learning Objectives

Become familiar with basic heraldic terms
Understand the Rule of Tincture

Understand what parts are used to design a device
Feel more comfortable when looking at heraldry/armory

You will study basic heraldry using The Heraldic Primer or Heraldry for Non-Heralds online (link provided below) and turning in an answer sheet for evaluation.

If learning all this seems daunting, fear not: The kingdom of Trimaris has an army of heralds who learned/are learning this stuff so you don't have to but are always happy to help explain and teach and assist you in familiarizing yourself with this amazing and interesting topic.

The Heraldic Primer or Heraldry for Non-Heralds

The Heraldic Primer or Heraldry for Non-Heralds is a good, basic article on heraldry for beginners the SCA website. This article serves as text for this course. Use the following link:

<http://heraldry.sca.org/armory/newprimer>

Read the Heraldic Primer completely and thoroughly. Take your time. This online text will walk you through the basic concepts of heraldry/armory. If you have any questions about the primer, do not hesitate to contact the Trimarian Coracle Herald at coracle@trimaris.org. Make sure you understand what you read, and take advantage of the Coracle, asking them any questions you may have, to help clarify any confusing topics.

3. The Evaluation

Create an answer file in .txt, .doc, or .pdf format OR type the answers into the body of an email. Email your answers to Coracle@trimaris.org. Make sure to include the following information:

Subject line: Trimarian Heraldic Online Self-Study Program "Basic Armory"

Your SCA Name

Your Mundane Name

Your local group

(If you are delivering your answer sheet for evaluation in person, please make sure to include contact information such as email address and/or phone number)

Answer the following questions using your own words. Please number your answers for clarity or include the questions.

- 1. In your own words list two things about period heraldry. This can be from the examples or text.**
- 2. List the seven tinctures: the five colours and two metals. Please give both the French and English names.**
- 3. In your own words what is a blazon?**
- 4. In your own words what is the Rule of Tincture?**
- 5. Describe the process called counterchanging.**
- 6. What is a fur and how is it used?**
- 7. Name three field divisions.**
- 8. Name two lines of partition.**
- 9. In your own words describe what a semi is.**
- 10. Name three Ordinaries**
- 11. Name three subordinaries**
- 12. What is a charge?**

13. Describe what a posture is and how it is used.

14. Please describe your experience with the primer. Feel free to ask questions or supply comments. Tell us what you learned. This is place for correspondence with the Coracle and a way to clarify topics you found difficult and/or confusing.