

Sophister Module Description Template 2023-24

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| Option Name: | Writing Rebellion |
| Lecturer Name: | Paul Delaney |
| Email Address: | delanep@tcd.ie |
| ECTS Weighting: | 10 |
| Semester/Term Taught: | MT 2023 |
| Year: | JS |

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module students should be able to:

1. Discuss a variety of texts which have depicted the Irish revolutionary period of 1916-1923.
2. Explore the ways those texts represented a number of significant issues, such as freedom, violence, loyalty, equality, belonging and social justice.
3. Situate this knowledge in a broader historical, cultural and literary context.
4. Employ a range of interpretive strategies, using an advanced critical vocabulary, to engage in a close reading of a select body of texts.
5. Evaluate those texts in oral and written presentations, and transfer discipline specific competencies to cognate subjects and related professions.

Option Learning Aims:

'Few would challenge the assertion that violence has played a number of crucial roles in the making of modern Ireland', Danine Farquharson and Sean Farrell remarked several years ago, in *Shadows of the Gunmen: Violence and Culture in Modern Ireland*. This Option takes this statement as a starting point, and explores the ways that different manifestations of violence – especially rebellion and political violence – have been represented in a diverse body of Irish literary texts. In particular, the Option examines representations of a key period in Irish history, from the Easter Rising of 1916, through the War of Independence of 1919-21, to the Civil War of 1922-23. The Option is divided in two parts: the first part (up to Reading Week) explores the work of several writers who participated in and/or lived through that tumultuous period in modern Irish history; the second part (from Week 8 forward) focuses on a selection of texts by recent prose writers. The Option begins with an introductory session on contexts and critical methodologies, and touches on some of W. B. Yeats's contemporary responses to the Rebellion; other critical and contextual material will be introduced

as the module develops. The Option also directs students to additional representations of the Irish Rebellion, by visual artists, filmmakers, historians and creative writers.

Option Content:

Most of the primary texts for this module should be readily available; extracts and short texts for weeks 4-6 (marked ***) will be available through Blackboard. Short excerpts by writers and activists who participated in and/or reflected on the Rebellion will be woven through the module, and will supplement the primary reading list; these pieces will also be available on Blackboard.

Primary material for the weekly seminars is as follows:

1. Introduction
2. Sean O'Casey, *The Shadow of a Gunman* (1923), *Juno and the Paycock* (1924), *The Plough and the Stars* (1926)
3. Elizabeth Bowen, *The Last September* (1929)
4. Liam O'Flaherty, 'Civil War' (1926) and 'The Mountain Tavern' (1929); Seán O'Faoláin, 'Midsummer Night Madness' (1932); Frank O'Connor, 'Guests of the Nation' (1931) and 'A Boy in Prison' (1934)***
5. Hanna Sheehy Skeffington, excerpts from *Hanna Sheehy Skeffington: Suffragette and Sinn Féiner* (ed. Margaret Ward, 2017); Kathleen Clarke, excerpts from *Revolutionary Woman* (ed. Helen Litton, 2008 [2nd edn.]***
6. Ernie O'Malley, excerpts from *On Another Man's Wound* (1936)***
7. Reading Week
8. Jennifer Johnston, *Fool's Sanctuary* (1987)
9. John McGahern, *Amongst Women* (1990)
10. Sebastian Barry, *A Long Long Way* (2005)
11. Lia Mills, *Fallen* (2014)
12. Conclusion

Assessment: Short essay (2,000 words, 30%); essay (4,000 words, 70%)

