

Sophister Module Description Template 2023-24

Full Name: Reading the Irish City

Short Name: Reading the Irish City

Lecturer Name and Email Address: Prof. Chris Morash; morashc@tcd.ie

ECTS Weighting: 10

Semester Taught: HT

Year: JS/SS: SS

Module Content:

What has become known as the 'spatial turn' in the humanities has alerted us to the ways in which the spaces we inhabit are produced by culture. These seminars take as their starting point the premise that Irish writing since the end of the nineteenth century (the massive exception of Joyce notwithstanding) has traditionally defined itself in terms of versions of the pastoral, and this in turn has had implications for the ways in which it has been possible to write the city as an Irish space. The central avenue in this module runs through the question of how literature produces space, and how this occurs differently across literary forms (fiction, poetry, drama). However, there will be diversions down alleys to encounter ghosts, crime, history, the *flâneur*, psychogeography, modernity and the mediations of culture. There will be glances in the shop windows of visual culture, as well as excursions into history, architecture, and philosophy, all with a view to sketching an outline map of Dublin in literature.

Learning Outcomes:

Upon successful completion of this module, students will have:

- ...acquired an awareness of the key theorists of space in relation to Irish literature.
- ...developed an ability to distinguish genre-specific modes of spatial production in Irish literature as part of a critical strategy of reading spatially.
- ...enhanced their capacity to understand forms of Irish writing; the module is intended to interact with existing sophister options in Irish studies, with an emphasis on contemporary Irish writing.
- ...acquired a familiarity with a range of recent Irish literature relating to Dublin and its cultural contexts, and develop the ability to think critically about these matters.

Learning Aims:

- Introduce students to range of Irish literary texts in relation to the ways in which they are products of (and productive of) Dublin as a city.
- Equip students to engage with spatial theory and urban theory as a means of reading literature.
- Train students in using mapping as a way of analyzing literature.

- Employ collaborative pedagogy as a means of developing awareness of issues relating to literary value.

Assessment Details:

- Number of Components: **3**
- Name/Type of Component(s): **(a) wiki; (b) literary map & commentary; (c) essay**
- Word Count of Component(s): **(a) 500 word wiki entry & presentation; (b) map, 250 word commentary & presentation (which may take place outside the classroom); (c) essay: 3000 words**
- Percentage Value of Component(s): **(a) 10%; (b) 15%; (c) 75%**

Preliminary Reading List:

- As a starting point, all students should be familiar with James Joyce's *Dubliners*, and some familiarity with Joyce's *Ulysses* would be a help (but not required). These, however, will not constitute core texts – rather, they are background. Among the core texts will be, Anne Enright's *The Gathering* (2007), the *New Collected Poems* of Eavan Boland (2009), and Dylan Coburn Gray's play *Citysong* (2019).

This module will contain some elements of asynchronous teaching.

Please note:

- Curricular information is subject to change.
- Information is displayed only for guidance purposes, relates to the current academic year only and is subject to change.