Sophister Option. Reading Ireland

EN4915 Reading Ireland Year-long 20 Credits. Submit Assessment by Monday 16 January 2017 and 18th April 2017.

EN4916 Reading Ireland A Michaelmas Term only 10 Credits. Submit Assessment by Friday 16 December 2016 if you are a Michaelmas Term only student. If you are a year-long student submit assessment by Monday 16th January.

EN4917 Reading Ireland B Hilary Term only 10 Credits. Submit Assessment by Tuesday 18th April 2017.

EN4916 Reading Ireland A

Michaelmas 2016

10 ECTS

Course description

This team-taught course introduces students to a range of texts, authors, and issues in modern and contemporary Irish writing. Structured according to three broad themes, students will work across genres and forms, encountering both canonical and less often studied works. This is an innately comparative course which proposes and encourages various ways of thinking about Irish texts in context, while at the same time providing a sound knowledge of the social, cultural, and political conditions in which these texts were written and read.

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Be confident discussing key figures and texts, and associated contexts, in twentieth-century and contemporary Irish writing
- Employ a well-developed range of critical terms in discussion of the texts and genres studied
- Show a sound critical awareness in evaluating the relationship between texts and contexts, situating literary analysis within broader cultural and historical discussions
- Relate the texts studied to relevant debates in criticism and theory, within and beyond Irish literary studies
- Generate questions, and robust comparative arguments, about these texts and authors, and pursue independent research to develop them

Course convenors: Dr Rosie Lavan and Dr Paul Delaney (lavanro@tcd.ie / delanep@tcd.ie)

Assessment: One 6,000 word essay.

Course outline

Week 1: Introduction (PD/RL)

DEATH


Week 3: Contemporary children’s literature: Siobhán Dowd, A Swift Pure Cry (2006) and Bogchild (2008) (Dr Pádraic Whyte)
Week 4: **Contemporary crime fiction**: Tana French, *Broken Harbour* (2012) (Dr Clare Clarke)

**TRANSLATION**

Week 5: **Loss and inheritance**: Vona Groarke and others: translations from Eibhlín Dubh Ní Chonaill’s *Lament for Art O’Leary* (1773) (RL)

Week 6: **Beckett and translation**: ‘Dante and the Lobster’ (1934) (Dr Sam Slote)

Week 7: **Reading week [no class]**

Week 8: **Myth and nationalism** (Dr Helen Conrad O’Briain)

**MODERNITY**

Week 9: **Contemporary drama and post-Catholic mysticism**: selected texts by Conor McPherson and Enda Walsh (JB)

Week 10: **Domesticity and tradition**: selected texts by Mary Lavin and Frank O’Connor (pdfs) (PD)

Week 11: **Modernism and the city**: selected texts by James Joyce and Thomas MacGreevy (pdfs) (RL)

Week 12: **Conclusion** (PD/RL)

**Texts**

Students are encouraged to source their own copies of course texts, purchasing them new or second-hand or borrowing them from the Library, but where indicated pdf versions will be made available via Blackboard.

**Recommended secondary reading**

The following texts provide a range of critical and theoretical approaches to Irish literature and culture. You may find it helpful to refer to them throughout the course. More specific suggestions for secondary reading will be provided by individual lecturers.

For background, Terence Brown’s *Ireland: A Social and Cultural History*, 2nd edn (London: Harper, 2004) is an excellent place to start: it would be extremely worthwhile to read this cover to cover.


Taylor FitzSimon, Betsey, and James H. Murphy, eds., *The Irish Revival Reappraised* (Dublin: Four Courts, 2004).

**EN4917 Reading Ireland B**

**Hilary 2017**

**10 ECTS**

**Course description**

This team-taught course introduces students to a range of texts, authors, and issues in modern and contemporary Irish writing. Structured according to three broad themes, students will work across genres and forms, encountering both canonical and less often studied works. Topics covered in Hilary Term will include gender and sexuality, and place and home, and authors will include James Joyce, Edna O’Brien, John McGahern, and Eavan Boland. This is an innately comparative course which proposes and encourages various ways of thinking about Irish texts in context, while at the same time
providing a sound knowledge of the social, cultural, and political conditions in which these texts were written and read.

**Learning outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will:

- Be confident discussing key figures and texts, and associated contexts, in twentieth-century and contemporary Irish writing
- Employ a well-developed range of critical terms in discussion of the texts and genres studied
- Show a sound critical awareness in evaluating the relationship between texts and contexts, situating literary analysis within broader cultural and historical discussions
- Relate the texts studied to relevant debates in criticism and theory, within and beyond Irish literary studies
- Generate questions, and robust comparative arguments, about these texts and authors, and pursue independent research to develop them

**Course convenors:** Dr Rosie Lavan and Dr Paul Delaney ([lavanro@tcd.ie](mailto:lavanro@tcd.ie) / [delanep@tcd.ie](mailto:delanep@tcd.ie)). Any queries about this course may be addressed to Dr Lavan.

**Assessment:** One 6,000 word essay.