

Reading Ireland A

Michaelmas 2018

10 ECTS

Course description

This team-taught course introduces students to a range of texts, authors, and issues in Irish writing. Students will work across genres and forms, encountering canonical and less often studied works. This is an innately comparative course which proposes and encourages various ways of thinking about Irish texts, 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 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). Any queries about the course may be directed to Dr Lavan in the first instance.

Assessment

Two 3,000 word essays.

Course outline

Week 1 (13 September): Introduction (PD/RL)

Week 2 (20 September): Issues of representation in Irish literature (PD/RL)

Week 3 (27 September): Edmund Spenser, 'A View of the Present State of Ireland' (c. 1596) (Dr Ema Vyroubalová)

Week 4 (4 October): Jonathan Swift, 'A Modest Proposal' (1729) and selected poems (Dr Amy Prendergast)

Week 5 (11 October): Patrick Kavanagh, *The Great Hunger* (1942) (Dr Tom Walker)

Week 6 (18 October): Discussion and consolidation (PD/RL)

WEEK 7: READING WEEK

Week 8 (1 November): Edna O'Brien, *The Country Girls Trilogy* (1960-1964) (Professor Eve Patten)

Week 9 (8 November): Siobhán Dowd, *A Swift Pure Cry* (2006) (Dr Pádraic Whyte)

Week 10 (15 November): Tom Murphy, *A Whistle in the Dark* (1961) (RL)

Week 11 (22 November): Eilís Dillon, *The Island of Horses* (1956) (Dr Jane Carroll)

Week 12 (29 November): 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.

Brown, Michael, *The Irish Enlightenment* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2016).

Carpenter, Andrew, 'Introduction', *Verses in English from Eighteenth-Century Ireland* (Cork: Cork University Press, 1998), pp. 1-34.

Cleary, Joe, *Outrageous Fortune: Capital and Culture in Modern Ireland* (Dublin: Field Day, 2006).

—, and Claire Connolly eds., *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Irish Culture* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005).

Connolly, Claire, *Theorizing Ireland* (London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2002).

Cullingford, Elizabeth Butler, *Ireland's Others: Gender and Ethnicity in Irish Literature and Popular Culture* (Cork: Cork University Press, 2001).

Deane, Seamus, *Celtic Revivals: Essays in Modern Irish Literature 1880 – 1980* (London: Faber, 1985).

Douglas, Aileen, Moyra Haslett, and Ian Campbell Ross, eds., 'Irish Fiction, 1660-1830', *Irish University Review*, 41.1 (Spring/Summer, 2011).

- Douglas, Aileen, 'The novel before 1800', in John Wilson Foster ed., *The Cambridge Companion to the Irish Novel* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006), pp.22-38.
- Eagleton, Terry, *Crazy John and the Bishop and Other Essays on Irish Culture* (Cork: Cork University Press, 1998).
- Gibbons, Luke, *Transformations in Irish Culture* (Cork: Cork University Press, 1996).
- Gillespie, Raymond, and Andrew Hadfield, *The Oxford Handbook of the Irish Book. Vol. III. The Irish Book in English, 1550-1800* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006).
- Graham, Colin, *Deconstructing Ireland: Identity, Theory, Culture* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2001).
- Greene, Nicholas, *The Politics of Irish Drama: Plays in Context from Boucicault to Friel* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999).
- Kelleher, Margaret, and Philip O'Leary eds., *The Cambridge History of Irish Literature* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006). 2 vols.
- Kiberd, Declan, *Inventing Ireland: The Literature of the Modern Nation* (London: Vintage, 1996).
- , *Irish Classics* (London: Granta, 2000).
- , *The Irish Writer and the World* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005).
- Kirkland, Richard, and Colin Graham eds., *Ireland and Cultural Theory: The Mechanics of Authenticity* (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1999).
- Lloyd, David, *Anomalous States: Irish Writing and the Post-Colonial Moment* (Dublin: Lilliput, 1993).
- Longley, Edna, *The Living Stream: Literature and Revisionism in Ireland* (Newcastle: Bloodaxe, 1994).
- Murray, Christopher, *Twentieth-Century Irish Drama: A Mirror Up to Nation* (Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1997).
- Vance, Norman, *Irish Literature Since 1800* (Abingdon: Routledge, 2002).