Reading Ireland B

Hilary 2020
Wednesdays 12-2pm, Arts 3027
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.
• Appreciate and engage in existing debate over the definition of what constitutes 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 convenor: Dr Amy Prendergast (amprende@tcd.ie)

Assessment: Two 3,000-word essays.

Module Outline

Week 1: Introduction (Dr Amy Prendergast)

Week 2: Maria Edgeworth, Castle Rackrent (AP)

Week 3: Bram Stoker, Dracula (Dr Clare Clarke)

Week 4: Robert McLiam Wilson, Eureka Street (Prof. Eve Patten)

Week 5: Jennifer Johnston, This is Not a Novel (Dr Paul Delaney)

Week 6: Review discussion (AP)

Week 7: Reading Week
Week 8: Oliver Goldsmith, *She Stoops to Conquer* (AP)

Week 9: Samuel Beckett, *Krapp’s Last Tape* (Dr Julie Bates)

Week 10: Siobhán Dowd, *A Swift Pure Cry* (Dr Pádraic Whyte)

Week 11: Leontia Flynn, *These Days* (Dr Rosie Lavan)

Week 12: Conclusions (AP)

**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 some of them over the course of the module. Specific suggestions for secondary reading will be provided by individual lecturers.


