

Reading Ireland B

Term: Hilary Term 2021

ECTS weighting: 10 ECTS

Module convenor: Paul Delaney (delanep@tcd.ie)

Assessment: 2 x 3,000-word essays

Module description

This team-taught module is loosely organised around the theme of memory and introduces students to a broad range of authors and texts in Irish writing. Students read across genres and forms, encountering canonical and less well-known works. This comparative module proposes various ways of thinking about Irish literary texts, while at the same time providing a sound knowledge of the social, cultural, and political conditions in which these texts were written, produced, and read.

Learning outcomes

Upon successful completion of this module, students will:

- Be confident discussing some key figures and texts in Irish writing
- Employ a well-developed range of critical terms in discussion of the texts and genres
- Show a sound critical awareness in evaluating the relationship between texts and contexts, situating literary analysis within broader cultural and historical frameworks
- 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

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1. Introduction (Paul Delaney)
2. Sheridan Le Fanu, selected stories (Jarlath Killeen)**
3. W. B. Yeats, *The Dreaming of the Bones* (Christopher Morash)**
4. Sean O'Casey, *The Plough and the Stars* (Andrew Murphy)
5. Mary Lavin, selected stories (Paul Delaney)**
6. Samuel Beckett, *Krapp's Last Tape* (Julie Bates)
7. Reading Week
8. Deirdre Madden, *One by One in the Darkness* (Tom Walker)
9. Seamus Heaney, *Seeing Things* (Rosie Lavan)

10. Siobhan Dowd, *A Swift Pure Cry* (Pádraic Whyte)
11. Jennifer Johnston, *This is Not a Novel* (Paul Delaney)
12. Conclusion (Paul Delaney)

Please Note: the order of lectures may change as timetables are finalised. A final list will be available before the start of Hilary Term.

Texts

Texts marked with a double asterisk (**) will be available as pdf versions via Blackboard. However, students are encouraged to source their own copies of core texts, purchasing them new or second-hand or borrowing them from the Library.