Reading Ireland B

Term: Hilary Term 2022  
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)

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.