

Irish Writing

Module convenor: Dr Paul Delaney

Email address: delanep@tcd.ie

Lecturers: Dr Paul Delaney, Dr Rosie Lavan, Prof Andy Murphy

ECTS weighting: 10

Year: JF

Term taught: Hilary Term

Assessment: Mid-term essay and end-of-term exam

Module Description:

This team-taught module introduces students to a broad range of texts in the Irish literary tradition. It encompasses material from the eighteenth century (Jonathan Swift) to the present (Emma Donoghue and Kevin Barry), and, in the process, engages with some of the most innovative and exciting literature to be produced over the last 300 years. The module is generically diverse, and includes work by a variety of poets, novelists, playwrights and short-story writers. It is not organised chronologically; rather, material is clustered around a number of concepts or ideas ('Satire', 'History', 'Violence' and 'Place), with several lectures given over to a discussion of each of these issues. Each set of lectures begins with an introduction, and this is followed by several author- or text-specific lectures. The module opens with a general introduction to Irish writing, and wrap-up lectures are given at the end of week 6 (before reading Week) and again at the end of week 12.

Note: Since this module is weighted at 10 ECTS, there will be **two** lectures each week in 'Irish Writing' in addition to a full complement of tutorial classes.

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- discuss a broad range of texts in the Irish literary tradition
- situate those texts in their larger cultural, historical and literary contexts
- explore the relationship between texts, authors, genres and movements

- employ a range of interpretive strategies and critical perspectives
- relate material covered on this module to texts discussed on other modules in the Fresher curriculum
- engage in advanced studies of modern and contemporary Irish writing at Sophister level

Module Outline:

- 1 a) General introduction (PD)
b) Introduction **1: Satire** (RL)
- 2 a) Jonathan Swift, 'A Modest Proposal' and selected poems (PD)
b) Maria Edgeworth, *Castle Rackrent* (RL)
- 3 a) George Bernard Shaw, *Mrs Warren's Profession* (RL)
b) Flann O'Brien, *At Swim-Two-Birds* (PD)
- 4 a) Introduction **2: History** (AM)
b) Elizabeth Bowen, *The Last September* (PD)
- 5 a) Brian Friel, *Making History* (AM)
b) Eavan Boland, selected poems (AM)
- 6 a) Seamus Heaney, selected poems (AM)
b) Conclusion and essay submission (PD)
- 7 Reading week
- 8 a) Introduction **3: Violence** (RL)
b) J. M. Synge, *The Playboy of the Western World* (RL)
- 9 a) Edna O'Brien, *The Country Girls* (RL)
b) Stewart Parker, *Pentecost* (RL)
- 10 a) Introduction **4: Place** (PD)
b) James Joyce, *Dubliners* (PD)
- 11 a) Emma Donoghue, *Hood* (PD)
b) Patrick Kavanagh, 'The Great Hunger' (PD)
- 12 a) Keven Barry, *City of Bohane* (AM)
b) Conclusion and exam preparation (PD)