

ENP11011 *Eavan Boland and Modern Irish Poetry*

Module type	Optional (approved module: MPhil in Irish Writing)
Term / hours	Hilary / 22
ECTS	10
Coordinator(s)	Dr Rosie Lavan (lavanro@tcd.ie) Dr Tom Walker (walkerto@tcd.ie)
Lecturer(s)	Dr Rosie Lavan Dr Tom Walker
Cap	Depending on demand

Module description

Eavan Boland is one of the most significant Irish poets of the past century. In a career of more than 50 years, she persistently questioned, and radically expanded, the parameters of Irish poetry and the definition of the Irish poet. The course will examine a wide range of Eavan Boland's poetry and prose. Seminars are structured around some of the poet's major themes and modes. These will also be interspersed with seminars that seek to place Boland within the broader history of modern Irish poetry, via comparisons with the work and careers of Blanaid Salkeld, Patrick Kavanagh, Derek Mahon, Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin and Paula Meehan. Also explored will be relevant historical and cultural contexts, and questions of poetics and ideology.

Assessment

The module is assessed through a 4,000-word essay.

Indicative bibliography

Students will need to purchase a copy of Eavan Boland, *New Selected Poems* (Carcanet/Norton) and Eavan Boland, *Object Lessons: The Life of the Woman and the Poet in Our Time* (Carcanet/Vintage/Norton) as the core course texts. Please note: it is expected that students will read *Object Lessons* in full before the start of the course. All other primary material needed through the term will be made available via Blackboard. This will include poems from Boland's collections published since the appearance of *New Collected Poems* (*Domestic Violence*, *A Woman Without A Country* and *The Historians*) and the work of the other poets to be studied on the course, as well as various other relevant essays, articles and interviews. In terms of secondary reading, good places to start are: Randolph, Jody Allen, *Eavan Boland* (Cork: Cork University Press, 2014), and Randolph, Jody Allen ed., *Eavan Boland: A Sourcebook: Poetry, Prose, Interviews, Reviews, and Criticism* (Manchester:

Carcanet, 2007). More detailed secondary reading suggestions will be provided during the course.

Learning outcomes

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

- LO1 Demonstrate an understanding of issues of form, genre, language and publication which shape Boland's work.
- LO2 Use high-level transferable skills in critical analysis and essay writing acquired through the module.
- LO3 Engage with relevant theoretical and critical arguments and reflect critically on the categories which have operated in discussions of Irish poetry over the past 50 years.
- LO4 Engage with relevant historical and cultural contexts.