

School of English JS modules (5 ECTS)

At present we have one year-long JS 10 ECTS lecture course, The Book. This accommodates at least 150 students. It serves the need for credit balance for TSM students (by taking two options and The Book they achieve 15 ECTS in English in each semester), but prevents it for SH, who take 25 ECTS in one semester and 35 in the other. It also creates problems at progression for JS SH students who study abroad for one semester, as they are only able to take a 5 ECTS module where they need 10 ECTS to satisfy credit requirements.

In 2019-2020 we require a number of JS 5 ECTS so as to enable JS SH students to balance their credits across semesters. In subsequent years (under TEP) we will need a full suite of 5 ECTS JS modules to facilitate students taking electives and approved modules.

Format: Modules to be delivered to classes capped at 25. This size allows for varied classroom practice while respecting the classroom spaces available in the Arts Building.

Delivery: Delivery by a single staff member (similar to present Sophister Options) facilitates module coherence while allowing maximum flexibility as regards staffing.

Assessment: The School will decide the pattern of assessment of JS 5 ECTS modules. One possible proposal would be that all such modules taught in a given semester be assessed the same way so as to prevent assessment being an element in student module choice.

Given that the number of JS 5-ECTS modules required after 2020 will increase, and as all colleagues in the School have always taught across the entire range of undergraduate courses, it makes sense at this juncture to ask each member of the School to propose a 5 ECTS JS module.

All members of the School are requested to return the completed template to Elaine by **Friday March 1**

Module Title:

Blow-Ins: contemporary women writers and artists on rural Ireland

Short Name:

Blow-Ins

Lecturer Name and Email Address: Julie Bates batesju@tcd.ie

ECTS Weighting: 5

Learning Outcomes:

- Learn about five women writers and artists living and working in rural Ireland today.
- Develop a method of close reading across a range of genres, from fiction to artists' books.
- Assess how these recent artworks and publications fit within or complicate traditional representations of rural life in Irish Studies.

Course Description:

This module looks at five women whose creative work represents the experience of living and working in contemporary rural Ireland. These women include two Irish farmer-artists: Miriam O'Connor and Orla Barry, who uprooted themselves from their urban lives as visual artists and became farmers. O'Connor now keeps cattle in Cork and Barry keeps sheep in Wexford, and they both combine their work as farmers with their creative practice. The module also includes the American writer Alice Lyons and English writer Claire-Louise Bennett, who use fiction to represent the experience of being an outsider in the west of Ireland. The fifth woman on the module is the American writer and artist Erica Van Horn, whose 'Living Locally' series of artists' books are anchored in daily life in rural Tipperary. The module has alternating lectures and seminars each week.

Indicative Reading List:

Primary texts:

- Orla Barry, *Shaved Rapunzel, Scheherazade & the Shearling Ram from Arcady* (Mu.ZEE Ostend & Wexford Arts Centre: 2019)
- *Notes From Sheepland*, documentary about Orla Barry, dir. Cara Holmes (2023)
- Claire-Louise Bennett, *Pond* (Dublin: Stinging Fly, 2015)
- Alice Lyons, *Oona* (Dublin: Lilliput Press, 2020)
- Miriam O'Connor, *Tomorrow is Sunday* (Dublin: Gallery of Photography, 2020)
- Erica Van Horn, 'Living Locally' series of artists' books (Coracle, 2002–2019)