

Sophister Module Description 2026-27

Full Name: Irish Poetry after Yeats

Short Name: Irish Poetry after Yeats

Lecturer Name and Email Address: Dr Tom Walker (walkerto@tcd.ie)

ECTS Weighting: 10

Semester Taught: MT

Year: SS

Module Content:

The course will consider various directions taken by Irish poetry over the last 80 or so years. It will do so by concentrating on key volumes published from the 1930s down to the present. Seminars will emphasise relevant historical and cultural contexts, as well as attending to questions of poetics and ideology.

1. Introduction
2. Louis MacNeice, *Autumn Journal* (1939)
3. Thomas Kinsella, *Nightwalker and Other Poems* (1968)
4. John Montague, *The Rough Field* (1972)
5. Derek Mahon, *The Hunt by Night* (1982)
6. Eavan Boland, *Outside History* (1990)
7. Reading Week
8. Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin, *The Brazen Serpent* (1994)
9. Paula Meehan, *Painting Rain* (2009)
10. Leontia Flynn, *The Radio* (2017)
11. Nidhi Zak/Aria Eipe, *Auguries of a Minor God* (2021)
12. Conclusion

Learning Outcomes:

- To have developed high-level transferable skills in critical analysis and writing
- To have engaged with relevant theoretical and critical arguments
- To have engaged with relevant historical and cultural contexts.

Learning Aims:

- To enhance awareness of critical approaches to modern Irish poetry
- To further understanding of the relevance of Irish history and culture to reading modern Irish Poetry
- To explore issues of canon, influence and allusion, and poetic form and language.

Assessment Details:

- Type of Assessment (Continuous and/or Exam): Continuous

- Number of Components: 2
- Word Count of Component(s): 2,000 and 4,000
- Percentage Value of Component(s): 30% and 70%

Preliminary Reading List:

Louis MacNeice, *Autumn Journal* (Faber) or *Collected Poems*, ed. McDonald (Faber).

Also available via LION (Literature Online) database.

Thomas Kinsella, *Nightwalker and Other Poems* (1968) is a rare volume, but the key poems are in *Collected Poems* or mostly in *Selected Poems* (both Carcanet).

However, due to complex textual issues **a pdf will be provided** of the original printing of the volume to be discussed.

John Montague, *The Rough Field* (Dolmen/Gallery) or *Collected Poems* (Gallery) or *New Collected Poems* (Gallery).

Derek Mahon, *The Hunt by Night* (1982). Due to complex textual issues **a pdf will be provided** of the printing of this volume to be discussed.

Eavan Boland, *Outside History* or *New Collected Poems* (both Carcanet)

Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin, *The Brazen Serpent* (Gallery) or *Collected Poems* (Gallery).

Paula Meehan, *Painting Rain* (Carcanet).

Leontia Flynn, *The Radio* (Jonathan Cape).

Nidhi Zak/Aria Eipe, *Auguries of a Minor God* (Faber).

Useful anthologies of Irish verse you might wish to consult in preparation include:

Patrick Crotty, ed., *The Penguin Book of Irish Poetry* (Penguin); Patrick Crotty, ed.,

Modern Irish Poetry (Blackstaff); Wes Davis, ed., *An Anthology of Modern Irish*

Poetry (Belknap/Harvard Univ. Press); Lucy Collins, ed., *Poetry by Women in*

Ireland: A Critical Anthology 1870-1970 (Liverpool University Press). Two useful

compendiums of relevant critical material are: Matthew Campbell, ed., *The*

Cambridge Companion to Contemporary Irish Poetry and Fran Brearton and Alan

Gillis, eds, *The Oxford Handbook of Modern Irish Poetry*. More specific bibliography

will be circulated during the module.

Please note:

- **Curricular information is subject to change.**
- **Information is displayed only for guidance purposes, relates to the current academic year only and is subject to change.**