

Fresher/Sophister Module Description Template 2025-26

Full Name: ENU11003 Irish Writing

Short Name: ENU11003 Irish Writing

Lecturer Name(s) and Email Address(es): Dr. Paul Delaney (co-convenor) [DELANEYP@TCD.IE] ; Prof. Chris Morash (co-convenor) [MORASHC@TCD.IE]; Dr. Rosie Lavan [LAVANRO@TCD.IE]; Prof. Andrew Murphy [ANDREW.MURPHY@TCD.IE]

ECTS Weighting: 10 ECTS

Semester Taught MT/HT: HT

Year JF/SF/JS/SS: JF

Module Content:

ENU11003 (Irish Writing) is an introductory survey module, designed to introduce students to a range of Irish literary works in English, extending from the nineteenth century to the present, with an emphasis on works from the mid-twentieth century. The module is not, however, arranged chronologically. Instead, it is structured around four skills-based pillars: (1) Text; (2) Context; (3) Postcolonial Reading; (4) Gender and Reading. Hence, the literary works studied in the first pillar will be approached from the perspective of close reading. Those studied in the second pillar will be considered in relation to the ways in which various forms of contextual material, archival, critical and historical, can inform our reading of literature. The third pillar will introduce the tenets of postcolonial theory, and then apply it to the reading of selected text, while the fourth pillar will do the same in relation to gender theory. The first half of the module will be assessed by means of a short essay that will involve the use of close reading and contextual sources, while the second part of the module will be assessed in relation to the two theoretical approaches. Authors whose work will form the object of analysis will include Maria Edgeworth, Seamus Heaney, Claire Keegan, James Joyce, W.B. Yeats, Eavan Boland, Brian Friel, Elizabeth Bowen, Audrey Magee, James Clarence Mangan, Gail McConnell, Edna O'Brien and Frank McGuinness.

Learning Outcomes:

- Students will develop a familiarity with a range of works of Irish literature, extending from the 19th to the 21st centuries.
- Students will learn to distinguish differing techniques for the study of poetry, fiction and drama, respectively.
- Students will develop skills for close reading.
- Students will develop skills for using context sources in the study of literature.
- Students will develop an awareness of postcolonial theory and its application in the study of Irish literature.
- Students will develop an awareness of gender theory and its application in the study of Irish literature.

Learning Aims:

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Assessment Details:

- **Number of Components:** 2
- **Name/Type of Component(s):** Mid-Term Essay: Using Contextual Sources
 - Final Exam
- **Word Count of Component(s):** Mid-Term Essay: 1500 words
 - Final Exam: 2 hours
- **Percentage Value of Component(s):** 50% each

Preliminary Reading List:

- Maria Edgeworth, *Castle Rackrent* (1800; any edition)
- Edna O'Brien, *The Country Girls* (1960)
- Elizabeth Bowen, *The Last September* (1929)
- W.B. Yeats, *Selected Poems* (any edition)

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.