

Sophister Module Description Template 2024-25

Full Name: Reading the Irish City

Short Name: Reading the Irish City

Lecturer Name and Email Address: Prof. Chris Morash morashc@tcd.ie

ECTS Weighting: 10

Semester Taught MT/HT: HT

Year JS/SS: SS

Module Content: *Reading the Irish City* [ENU44007] is an exercise in literary cartography, an opportunity to explore the ways in which our engagement with literature shapes, and is shaped by, our experiential habitation of urban spaces, traced through a double-helix of literary and philosophical/theoretical texts. The central avenue in this module runs through the question of how literature produces space, and how this occurs differently across literary forms (fiction, poetry, drama). However, there will be diversions down alleys to encounter ghosts, crime, history, the *flâneur*, psychogeography, modernity and the mediations of culture. There will be glances in the shop windows of visual culture, as well as excursions into history and architecture, all with a view to sketching an outline map of the Irish city in literature.

Learning Outcomes:

- To develop a familiarity with recent Irish literature across the genres of poetry, fiction and drama.
- To develop an awareness of urban theory, extending across philosophy, geography and the social sciences.
- To experiment combining theories of urban space with literary analysis.
- To get to really know Dublin and Belfast.

Learning Aims:

- To experiment with cartography as a tool of literary analysis.
- To experiment with urban walking as a tool of literary analysis.
- To develop presentation skills.
- To develop research and analysis skills for literary analysis.

Assessment Details:

- Number of Components: 3
- Name/Type of Component(s): 1) 8-Slide Slide Deck Presentation (Group) (15%) Weeks 5-6; (2) Literary Walking Presentation (Group) (25%) Weeks 11&12; (3) Essay: 3000 words (60%).
- Word Count of Component(s): 1) 8-Slide Slide Deck Presentation (Group) (15%) Weeks 5-6; (2) Literary Walking Presentation (Group) (25%) Weeks 11&12; (3) Essay: 3000 words (60%).
- Percentage Value of Component(s): 1) 8-Slide Slide Deck Presentation (Group) (15%) Weeks 5-6; (2) Literary Walking Presentation (Group) (25%) Weeks 11&12; (3) Essay: 3000 words (60%).

Preliminary Reading List:

- Chris Morash, *Dublin: A Writer's City* (Cambridge, 2023).
- Leiven Ameen, ed. *The Routledge Companion to Literary Urban Studies* (London: Routledge, 2025)
- Robert Tally Jr, ed. *The Routledge Handbook of Literature and Space* (London: Routledge, 2017).
- Ato Quayson and Jini Kim Watson, *The Cambridge Companion to the City in World Literature* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2023).

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.**