

Sophister Module Description 2025-26

Full Name: Shakespeare in Ireland

Short Name: Shakespeare in Ireland

Lecturer Name and Email Address: Andy Murphy; andrew.murphy@tcd.ie

ECTS Weighting: 10

Semester Taught: HT

Year: JS

Module Content:

Shakespeare in Ireland begins by considering the Irish context of Shakespeare's *The Tempest*. We then move to Ireland itself and examine the many different ways in which Shakespeare's work has been appreciated and appropriated in the country over the centuries. Topics to be considered include the history of Shakespeare productions in Ireland; the publication of his plays in the country; appropriations across a broad political spectrum; the influence of Shakespeare's work on Irish writers. The module includes a number of out-of-classroom sessions.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the module students will:

1. have an understanding of the Irish context of Shakespeare's work;
2. have an understanding of the role that Shakespeare has played in the development of Irish culture over the course of several centuries;
3. have engaged with a broad range of texts relevant to a consideration of the topic;
4. have learned to conduct original research on project topics of their own devising.

Learning Aims:

1. Students will engage with a variety of texts from week to week, from Shakespeare's own work to texts relating to or drawing inspiration from Shakespeare.
2. Students will be taken off campus to engage with materials at various venues, including Smock Alley and the Pearse Museum.
3. Students will be required to draw up a research proposal for a substantial original project and will be given guidance in completing that project.

Assessment Details:

- Number of Components: 2
- Name/Type of Components: Individual contribution to group research project (20%); module essay (80%)
- Word Count of Components: Essay 4,000 words

- Percentage Value of Component(s): (20%) and (80%)

Preliminary Reading List:

We will read the following Shakespeare plays: *The Tempest*, *Richard II*

Other texts to be read will likely include:

Edward Dowden, selections from *Shakespeare: A Critical Study of his Mind and Art*

Patrick Pearce, *The Master*

Frank McGuinness, *Mutabilitie*

The work of various critics and commentators.

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.