

Module Title: Writing Partitions

Dr Stephen O'Neill

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10 ECTS

Senior Sophister Option

Hilary Term 2027

Module Description:

The twentieth century saw partitions established in Ireland, Palestine, and the South Asian subcontinent as a method of colonial withdrawal. This module looks across these different ongoing partitions in detail, focusing on the literature that responded to these new divisions in the late twentieth and early twenty-first century. Paying attention to fiction, poetry, and oral testimony, the seminars will explore the variety of experiences and representations of partition that have emerged since 1979. Looking at these texts through a decolonial and comparative lens, the module will critically examine the impact of partition on modern anglophone literature alongside literatures in translation.

Learning Outcomes:

On the completion of this module, students will have:

- LO1:** Considered with nuance the histories of partition and its cultural representation.
- LO2:** Identified and analysed the formal aspects of literature from a range of critical perspectives and contexts.
- LO3:** Appraised those texts in oral and written presentations, adopting appropriate terminology and criticism.
- LO4:** Demonstrated knowledge of cultural, historical, and theoretical contexts for understanding the literature of partition.

Learning Aims / Objectives:

This module has been designed to:

- LO1:** Advance students' understanding of partition and its literary representation.
- LO2:** Develop an ability to read and interpret literary texts in a comparative context.
- LO3:** Developed students' capacity to communicate their arguments in written and spoken form at an appropriate critical level.
- LO4:** Build students' knowledge of the historical and cultural contexts of partition as well as relevant theories for understanding these.

Assessment: Essay (5,000 words, 100%).

Indicative reading list:

Jabra Ibrahim Jabra, *In Search of Walid Masoud* (1978; trans. 2000)
Intizar Hussain, *Basti* (1979; trans. 2012)
Anita Desai, *Clear Light of Day* (1980)
Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children* (1981)
Dermot Healy, *A Goat's Song* (1994)
Seamus Deane, *Reading in the Dark* (1996)
Urvashi Butalia, *The Other Side of Silence* (1998)
Selma Dabbagh, *Out of It* (2012)
Mahmoud Darwish, *Unfortunately, It Was Paradise: Selected Poems* (2013)
Isabella Hammad, *Enter Ghost* (2023)