

School of Languages, Literatures and Cultural Studies

Module descriptors for Inbound Students.

Name	Nobel Laureates in Literature
Code	CPU33003
Semester	1
ECTS credits	5
Module Coordinator	Jana Van Der Ziel Fischerova (vanderzi@tcd.ie)

Module Content

This module considers the most prestigious literary award in the world: the Nobel Prize in Literature.

Starting with an overview of the award's history and the way in which it has been administered, the module then examines the contemporary cultural contexts of Great Britain, Ireland, the United States, Russia and Czechia. The Nobel Prize in Literature, first awarded in 1901, has been intended for 'the person who shall have produced ... the most outstanding work of an ideal tendency'. Engaging with the literary scenes of the five countries under review, the module discusses the work and legacy of some of these 'persons' – including W. B. Yeats (who received the Prize in 1923), Alexander Solzhenitsyn (1970), William Golding (1983), Jaroslav Seifert (1984), Toni Morrison (1993), and others. It considers these outstanding literary artists' most significant works, evaluating their contribution to the world of letters, and to humankind. The module concludes with an informed discussion about the relationship between literature and society, and the role of literature in our contemporary world.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of this module students will be able to:

1. **Demonstrate** a good knowledge of the history and significance of the Nobel Prize
2. **Examine** case studies from the five countries under review to explore the reasons for specific writers being singled out for this highest of accolades
3. **Critically engage** with a selection of texts by Nobel Laureates, providing literary analysis, while also considering their cultural-historical background



4. **Reflect on** the relationship between literature and society, and the role of literature in our contemporary world
5. **Provide** practical insights through case studies from the five contexts under review

Assessment

2,500-word essay (60%)

1,000-word primary source analysis (40%)