



## Irish Landscapes: Interdisciplinary Perspectives

<b>Module Coordinator</b>	<b>Dr. Mark Hennessy, School of Natural Sciences</b>
<b>What will you learn from this Elective?</b>	<p>Landscapes are formed and develop through an historically dynamic and complex interaction between environment, society, culture, economy and ideology. The perception and the representation of landscapes is also shaped through social, cultural and ideological lenses. The aim of this module is to explore the evolution and experience of Irish landscapes through a range of disciplinary and interdisciplinary perspectives.</p> <p>The module will also provide an introduction to the major conceptual and methodological frameworks for interdisciplinary landscape studies and the development of landscape studies in Ireland. It will also embed a corresponding introduction to the challenges of integrating interdisciplinary perspectives in a world of digital tools, methodologies and resources. These aims will be embedded into the module structure through an innovative combination of digital humanities spatio-temporal storytelling software, interactive workshops, varied and continuous assessment in class, and a group generated final project.</p>
<b>Student Workload</b>	125 hours of student input.
<b>Assessment Components</b>	<p>Assessment will be through the presentation of a multi-faceted appraisal of a chosen landscape. This appraisal will be assessed through a combination of regular continuous assessment activities in lectures and workshops (35% of total broken into 4 x 5% assessments and 1x 10% assessment) and a group project (60% of total) due at the end of term. Marks for attendance will be emphasised due to the in-class nature of assessment (5%).</p> <p>This mode of assessment will allow and encourage students to reflect on the variety of approaches to reading landscapes individually and collectively and to apply these, or a selection of these, to the landscape project. This will facilitate independent and creative thinking and the integration and application of learning from across the breadth of the module coupled with a competency in digital group work. Both continuous assessment activities and the group project will provide opportunities for students to offer their individual perspectives for assessment.</p>

## Indicative Reading List

F. H. A. Aalen, Kevin Whelan and Matthew Stout (eds), *Atlas of the Irish Rural Landscape*, (Cork University Press, Cork, 2011)  
Rachael Ziady DeLue, and James Elkins (eds), *Landscape Theory* (Routledge, London, 2008).  
Valerie Hall, *The making of Ireland's landscape since the Ice Age*, (The Collins Press, Doughcloyne, Cork, 2011).  
D. W. Meinig (Ed.), *The Interpretation of Ordinary Landscapes* (Oxford University Press, Oxford (1979).  
W. J. T. Mitchell, *Landscape and Power*, (University of Chicago Press, Chicago, 2002).  
John Wylie, *Landscape*, (Routledge, Abingdon, 2007).

A detailed reading list will be provided in class.

## Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of key aspects of the development and representation of Irish landscapes and how these relate to a critical and interdisciplinary understanding of Irish society, culture and identity.
2. Implement theoretical and methodological tools for the critical reading and decoding of landscapes more generally.
3. Create a digital representation of a landscape in cooperation with peers from a range of disciplines and contribute to the body of scholarly research.
4. Curate collections in a range of media and from a range of disciplinary perspectives.
5. Reflect on the value of working together as a multidisciplinary team, drawing on shared strengths to design a final project.
6. Assess and explain the value of a critical understanding of landscape for active and engaged citizenship, and implement what they have learned in future studies.