



Travel and English Literature

Module Coordinator	Dr Pádraic Whyte, School of English (Semester 1) Dr Ema Vyroubalova, School of English (Semester 2)
What will you learn from this Elective?	This module is firmly positioned within the contemporary cultural context of societal challenges involving travel, such as Europe's refugee crisis on land and sea, US immigration policy and the treatment of migrants, Brexit and the Irish border, and being confined to home during a pandemic. This module will explore the manner in which English literature (past and present) engages with issues of travel and the representation of power and agency involved in the movement of individuals on a local and global level.
Student Workload	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 11x1 hour lectures: includes lectures plus discussion.• Approximately 46 hours of independent learning and preparation for lectures: Includes preparatory reading online and in library; listening to assigned podcasts and watching online material.• Approximately 30 hours of online activities: Participating in online group discussions; writing and uploading reflective statements; working on group projects; preparing in-class presentation/discussion of group projects; and creating and uploading online material arising out of group projects.• Approximately 38 hours of assessment preparation: Students will be required to write and submit a critical essay for assessment
Assessment Components	<p>- Essay writing - 100% of total grade.</p> <p>Through this independent research project, students will analyse in detail a number of texts and themes from the module, relate their discussions to broader cultural debates and societal challenges past and present, and reflect critically on the module content as a whole. Word count: 2000 words</p> <p>Students will also be required to complete formative assignments (reflective statement and group projects). These will not form part of the final grade, however, students must complete all elements of the formative assignments in order to pass the module.</p>
Indicative Reading List	<p>You will read approximately nine texts, as well as critical and theoretical material, across the semester. The themes and texts will change/rotate each year to facilitate staffing and to develop content.</p> <p>NB: A final reading list will be provided later in the year.</p> <p>A final reading list <i>might</i> include texts such as the following - Agatha Christie, <i>Murder on the Orient Express</i> (1934); Keith Gessen, <i>A Terrible Country</i> (2018); <i>Beowulf</i> (betw. 700 and c. 1000, trans. Seamus Heaney); Witi Ihimaera, <i>The Whale Rider</i> (1987); <i>JD Salinger, Catcher in the Rye</i> (1951); William Shakespeare, <i>The Tempest</i> (c.1610-11); and Virginia Woolf, <i>The Voyage Out</i> (1915).</p>

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Discuss, evaluate, and reflect critically on the representation of travel in a wide range of English language literary texts from diverse societies and across several centuries.
2. Relate textual analysis to broader contemporary cultural debates and societal challenges around the world.
3. Draw upon online resources to facilitate the exploration of the societal challenges of travel, past and present, and local and global.
4. Use a range of methodologies and reflect critically on the works of authors from diverse backgrounds, experiences and perspectives.
5. Develop collaborative and communication skills through online and group projects and take responsibility for their own learning experiences.
6. Question Eurocentric approaches to understanding terms such as 'societal' and 'challenges'.
7. Develop existing critical and analytical skills, become empowered citizens, develop continuously, and think beyond the confines of 'learning outcomes'.