



A World to Discover:

Travel Memoirs and Memorabilia at Trinity

Module Coordinator	Prof Anna Chahoud, Classics, School of Histories and Humanities
What will you learn from this Elective?	<p>This module is about travel and cultural encounters, the ways in which these experiences are recorded, and the exploration of the significance of such records through a journey around Trinity Library collections. The module aims to introduce students to the methodologies applied to the analysis of travel writing in its various forms (e.g. historical narratives, autobiographical memoirs, travel fiction) and to the analysis of visual and material objects. Primary material will be drawn from the Library's collections of remarkable texts and objects from around the world. Students will engage with appropriately selected items available in digital form on a dedicated online platform to be developed in conjunction with Library staff prior to the launch of the module.</p> <p>The module is purposefully broad in its chronological and geographical span, and will encourage both the acquisition of historical overviews (e.g. 'exploration and imagination in Classical Antiquity'; 'representations of the world in the Middle Ages'; 'curiosity and commodification in the early Modern period') and the development of awareness about methodologies (e.g. manuscript studies; critical theory and practice; identity theories and ethical issues) through specific case studies (e.g. 'Descriptions of Ireland from the 12th to the 15th century; 'soldiers' memoirs: conflict, colonisation and cultural imperialism'; 'Napoleon and the Description of Egypt; 'women's travel diaries in the 19th century'; 'travellers in Pre-Famine Ireland').</p> <p>The module will also foreground College and the Library as outward looking institutions with holdings of global significance and unique resources for education. It will appeal to students from a wide range of disciplinary background, encourage them to engage with College collections, and expose them to the active research of members of the Manuscript, Book and Print Cultures Research Theme. The series will combine discussions of well-known works (e.g. Marco Polo; Canterbury Tales) with explorations of lesser-known material (e.g. memoirs, maps, photographs), with potential for important but overlooked material to be digitised and made available to a wider audience while an online platform for primary and secondary material is developed for the students.</p> <p>A major output of the module will consist of research on select College items and preparation of a digital poster/exhibition demonstrating competent, analytical and imaginative presentation of an artefact in context. It is hoped that a mechanism may be</p>

	created, in discussion with the Senior Lecturer and the Director of Research Collections, to enable first-class performances to feed into the Library's development of its accessible portal, with full credit given to the students.
Student Workload	18 contact hours (6 overview lectures + 5 flipped lectures + 2 concluding plenary sessions for reflection on artefacts; 5 practical sessions) 15 hours of directed study on primary material 15 hours of group work and online discussion 25 hours of assessed reflective writing (individual short essay) 30 hours of assessed project work (group poster/exhibition)
Assessment Components	(1) Participation in class and online discussion during term (10%) (2) Individual short essay comparing a Trinity artefact (to be chosen from a selection provided) with a travel record/object drawn from personal experience, using an appropriate critical approach (midterm, 40%) (3) Group work production of digital poster/exhibition on a fully researched Trinity item, inclusive of cultural contextualisation, comparative material, and adequate use of critical literature (end of term, 50%)
Indicative General Reading	Islam, S. M. (1996) <i>The Ethics of Travel: From Marco Polo to Kafka</i> (Manchester) Thompson, C. (ed.) (2016) <i>The Routledge Companion to Travel Writing</i> Thompson, C. (2011) <i>Travel Writing</i> (Routledge) Bale A., and Sobecki S. (eds.) (2019) <i>Medieval English Travel: A Critical Anthology</i> (Oxford) Hadfield A. & McVeagh, J. (eds. (1994) <i>Strangers to that Land : British Perceptions of Ireland from the Reformation to the Famine</i> (Belfast)
Learning Outcomes	On successful completion of this module, students should be able to: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify and analyse the main lines of inquiry applied to travel writing and material records 2. Demonstrate familiarity with diverse primary material from the Library collections, its origin and significance 3. Compare records from different societies and analyse their shared and distinctive features, through effective use of appropriate critical methods 4. Produce an original critical analysis of record/artefact in context 5. Engage effectively in group discussion and team work, both in class and in the virtual learning environment 6. Demonstrate proficiency in oral and written communication