

Ireland in History and Memory, 2016-2017

Fall Syllabus

Faculty:

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Program website:

<http://sites.evergreen.edu/ireland1617/>

Description:

This two-quarter program comprises a study of Ireland through its history and many modes of expression: songs, poetry, Gaelic language, stories, film, drama, and literature. In focusing on history pre-Christian and early Christian nature-based spirituality and expressive culture during fall quarter, we will set the stage for understanding Irish reactions to colonialism, the Famine, and the social upheavals taking place at the turn of the 20th century. In addition to participating fully in all program activities, all students are expected to participate, one way or another, in performances of play readings, poetic recitation, and song performance in a supportive and safe environment. We expect you to learn enough basic Irish to use it as small talk in seminars and outside of class.

Planning:

The first day of class is September 26. Please do not make any plans to travel before December 13. Tell your parents or anyone who might be buying you an airplane ticket this information *now*. No new students will be admitted in winter or spring quarters.

Schedule:

Mondays: 9:30 – 11:30 and 12:30 – 2:30 (B1105)
Tuesdays: 9:30 – 11:30 (B3107 and B3109) and 12:30 – 2:30 (B3105)
Wednesdays: 9:30 – 11:30 (B3105) and 11:30 – 1:00 (Com 308)
Thursdays: 9:30 – 11:30 and 12:30 – 2:30 (B1105)

Program Texts for Fall Quarter

The Táin (Ciaran Carson translation, not the Kinsella translation)
In Search of Ancient Ireland (Carmel McCaffrey and Leo Eaton)
In Search of Ireland's Heroes (Carmel McCaffrey and Leo Eaton)
Paddy's Lament (Thomas Gallagher)
The Collected Poems of W.B. Yeats (ed. by Richard J. Finneran)
Modern and Contemporary Irish Drama (John P. Harrington)
Dubliners (James Joyce)

Assignments:

three burning questions to bring to seminar each Tuesday
one visual response to the Famine (due 11/3)
two integrative essays, five pages each (due 10/14 and 11/11)
Irish language homework, as assigned
participation in play readings, singing, and instrumental music sessions
participation in final collaborative presentation
one Yeats poem (in English) to be learned by heart by week ten

Credits: 16 (fall quarter only)

6 – Irish Cultural History
6 – Irish Expressive Arts
2 – Beginning Irish Language
2 – Integrative Writing

Note: You are expected to learn to play a musical instrument, and to be able to play Irish music on it. Most weeks we will be physically playing instrumental tunes and singing songs in Irish and English on Wednesdays; this work is every bit as important and demanding as understanding history, politics, and the Irish language. You will be expected to practice when you are not in class, refine your skills on your instrument, and learn the assigned tunes and songs by heart.

Week One:	Céad Míle Fáilte! [A Hundred Thousand Welcomes]
9/26	9:30 – 11:30 Readers' Theatre: <i>Molly Sweeney</i> (Brian Friel)
	12:30 – 2:30 Starting the Irish Language; Being vs. Having (SW)
9/27	9:30 – 11:30 Seminar: Why you? why now? why Ireland?
	12:30 – 2:30 Film: <i>In Search of Ancient Ireland</i>
9//28	9:30 – 11:30 Ireland Through a National and Atlantic Lens (GC)
	11:30 – 1:00 Join the Session! (bring musical instruments and expect chaos)
9/29	9:30 – 11:30 Ancient Irish Legends
	12:30 – 2:30 Summative Work; Approaching Liminality (SW)

Assignment for Week Two: read *The Táin* (“TAW-in”). Come to Tuesday’s seminar prepared to discuss what you have read, with the book and three burning questions; during Thursday’s final session we will integrate the week’s events and prepare for the following week. Review your Irish language materials, as we’ll be working with them frequently. Consider posting sticky notes all over your house as you begin to learn about the language. Test your roommates on how to say “good morning,” “good night,” “excuse me,” and “thank you” in Irish.

Week Two:	Ancient Ireland: Living Between Worlds
10/3	9:30 – 11:30 Bardic and Druidic Traditions (SW)
	12:30 – 2:30 The Celtic, Viking, and Roman Invasions (GC)
10/4	9:30 – 11:30 Seminar on <i>The Táin</i> (“TAW-in”)

- 12:30 – 2:30 Film and discussion: *Celtic Trilogy*
 10/5 9:30 – 11:30 Readers' Theatre: *Cathleen Ni Houlihan* (W.B. Yeats)
 11:30 – 1:00 Join the Session! (bring your musical instruments)
 10/6 9:30 – 11:30 Drawing Celtic Knotwork (guest: Jill Sattler)
 12:30 – 2:30 Summative Work

Assignment for Week Three: Read the first half of *In Search of Ancient Ireland* (pp.3-131). Come to Tuesday's seminar prepared to discuss what you have read, with the book and three burning questions; during Thursday's final session we will integrate the week's events and prepare for the following week. Complete your first five-page integrative essay (on ancient Ireland); it's due on Friday, 10/14 in pdf format (typed, double-spaced), e-mailed to your seminar faculty. Keep practicing your Irish language skills.

- Week Three: Ancient Ireland: Spirituality and Sexuality**
 10/10 9:30 – 11:30 Indigenous Spiritualities and the Brehon Laws (SW)
 12:30 – 2:30 Film: *The Secret of Roan Inish* [102 minutes]
 10/11 9:30 – 11:30 Seminar on the first half of *In Search of Ancient Ireland*
 12:30 – 2:30 Brigid, Patrick, and the Spread of Catholicism (GC)
 10/12 9:30 – 11:30 Readers' Theatre: *Deirdre* (W.B. Yeats)
 11:30 – 1:00 Join the Session! (bring your musical instruments)
 10/13 9:30 – 11:30 The Celtic Calendar (SW)
 12:30 – 2:30 Summative Work

Assignment for Week Four: Read the second half of *In Search of Ancient Ireland* (pp.132-265). Come to Tuesday's seminar prepared to discuss what you have read, reading in hand; during Thursday's final session we will integrate the week's events and prepare for the following week. Don't forget to check the website (under "assignments") to be sure you understand what is expected of you.

- Week Four: The First Conquests**
 10/17 9:30 – 11:30 Brigid and Mary: Two Visions of Spirituality (SW)
 12:30 – 2:30 Film: *In Search of Ancient Ireland*, pt. 2
 10/18 9:30 – 11:30 Seminar on the second half of *In Search of Ancient Ireland*
 12:30 – 2:30 Musical Traditions of the Ancient Irish, Scots, and Welsh (SW)
 10/19 9:30 – 11:30 Film: *In Search of Ancient Ireland*, pt. 3
 11:30 – 1:00 Join the Session! (bring your musical instruments)
 10/20 9:30 – 11:30 The English Reformation and Tudor Settlement of Ireland (GC)
 12:30 – 2:30 Summative Work

Assignment for Week Five: Read "Translations" by Brian Friel (*Modern and Contemporary Irish Drama*) together with "On Brian Friel" (pp.540-558). Read also the first half of *In Search of Ireland's Heroes*, pp.3-144. Come to Tuesday's seminar prepared to discuss what you have read, reading in hand; during Thursday's final session we will integrate the week's events and prepare for the following week.

Week Five:	The British Conquest of Ireland
10/24 9:30 – 11:30	From the Tudor Conquest to the Act of Union (GC)
12:30 – 2:30	Film and discussion: <i>Cromwell</i>
10/25 9:30 – 11:30	Seminar on first half of <i>In Search of Ireland's Heroes</i>
12:30 – 2:30	Place Names, Land, and Language (SW)
10/26 9:30 – 11:30	Readers' Theatre: <i>Translations</i> (Brian Friel)
11:30 – 1:00	Join the Session! (bring your musical instruments)
10/27 9:30 – 11:30	The Penal Laws (SW)
12:30 – 2:30	Summative Work

Assignment for Week Six: Read *Paddy's Lament*, parts 1 and 2 only (or, if you *really* want to be depressed, read the whole thing – how anyone even made it here alive is beyond anyone's wildest reckoning). Come to Tuesday's seminar prepared to discuss what you have read, reading in hand; during Thursday's final session we will integrate the week's events and prepare for the following week. This is also the weekend to develop a (two-dimensional) visual response to the Famine. Bring your visual response with you to class on Thursday the 3rd. Fair warning: brace for this terrible but important work.

Week Six:	The Great Hunger – <i>An Gorta Mór</i>
10/31 9:30 – 11:30	An English and Irish Historiography of the Famine (GC)
12:30 – 2:30	Samhain Potluck (and why fasting does not honor anyone)
11/1 9:30 – 11:30	Seminar on <i>Paddy's Lament</i> , parts 1 and 2
12:30 – 2:30	Film and Discussion: <i>The Hanging Gale</i> pt. 1 [101 minutes]
11/2 9:30 – 11:30	Film and Discussion: <i>The Hanging Gale</i> pt. 2 [104 minutes]
11:30 – 1:00	Songs and Poetry of the Famine (do not bring instruments)
11/3 9:30 – 11:30	Sharing of Visual Responses
12:30 – 2:30	Summative Work

Assignment for Week Seven: Skim through *The Collected Poems of W.B. Yeats* and read both "Riders to the Sea" and "Playboy of the Western World" by J.M. Synge (*Modern and Contemporary Irish Drama*), together with "On J.M. Synge" (pp. 453-472). Select six different poems from the Yeats book that "speak" to you at a gut level; read out loud and discuss two poems in detail in your small group in seminar. You will be asked to learn ONE Yeats poem by heart for your final evaluation. Come to Tuesday's seminar prepared to discuss what you have read, reading in hand; during Thursday's final session we will integrate the week's events and prepare for the following week. Complete your second five-page integrative essay (on ancient Ireland); it's due on Friday, 11/11 in pdf format (typed, double-spaced), e-mailed to your seminar faculty.

Week Seven:	The Celtic Twilight I
11/7 9:30 – 11:30	The National Literary Movement and the Three Leagues (SW)
12:30 – 2:30	Film: <i>Playboy of the Western World</i> [128 minutes]

- 11/8 9:30 – 11:30 Seminar on Yeats' poetry [**BE SURE TO VOTE TODAY!**]
 12:30 – 2:30 Reader's Theatre: *Riders to the Sea* (J.M. Synge)
- 11/9 9:30 – 11:30 Planning meetings for final presentations
 11:30 – 1:00 Planning meetings for final presentations
- 11/10 9:30 – 11:30 Revolutions! On the Periphery of 1848 (GC)
 12:30 – 2:30 Summative Work

Assignment for Week Eight: Read *Dubliners* (James Joyce). Be sure to read the entire set of short stories; this is the place to get deeply inside issues of men and women, and parents and children. Note the progression of the book from early childhood to adulthood to death and beyond. Come to Tuesday's seminar prepared to discuss what you have read, reading in hand; during Thursday's final session we will integrate the week's events and prepare for the following week. You need time to read *Dubliners* too. Trust me on this; read the whole thing.

Week Eight:

The Celtic Twilight II

- 11/14 9:30 – 11:30 The Art of James Joyce and Oscar Wilde (SW)
 12:30 – 2:30 Film: *James Joyce's The Dead* [82 minutes]
- 11/15 9:30 – 11:30 Seminar on *Dubliners*
 12:30 – 2:30 The Politics of Home Rule and Irish Cultural Nationalism (GC)
- 11/16 9:30 – 11:30 Reader's Theatre: *The Rising of the Moon* (Lady Gregory)
 11:30 – 1:00 Meetings for the final presentations
- 11/17 9:30 – 11:30 The Easter Rebellion of 1916
 12:30 – 2:30 Summative Work

Assignment for Week Nine: Read "The Rising of the Moon" and "Spreading the News" by Lady Gregory, and "Juno and the Paycock" by Seán O'Casey (*Modern and Contemporary Irish Drama*), together with "On Lady Gregory" (pp. 443-452) and "On Seán O'Casey" (pp. 496-516). Read also "Murmuring Name Upon Name: From Literature to Armed Rebellion" and "A Terrible Beauty: The Irish War of Independence," from *In Search of Ireland's Heroes*, pp. 201-244. Come to Tuesday's seminar prepared to discuss what you have read, reading in hand; during Thursday's final session we will integrate the week's events and prepare for the following week. Have you reviewed the Yeats poem you plan to recite by heart at your final evaluation?

Week Nine:

The Devil's Era: Éamon De Valera's Ireland

- 11/28 9 – 11:30 The War of Independence and the Irish Civil War (GC)
 12:30 – 2:30 Film: *Michael Collins* [132 minutes]
- 11/29 9 – 11:30 Seminar on the second half of *In Search of Ireland's Heroes*
 12:30 – 2:30 Meetings for the final presentations
- 11/30 9 – 10:30 Readers' Theatre: *Spreading the News* (Lady Gregory)
 11:30 – 1:00 Rehearsals for final presentations
- 12/1 9:30 – 11:30 A Dream of a World Without Women (SW)
 12:30 – 2:30 Film: *Juno and the Paycock* [85 minutes]

Assignment for Week Ten: Prepare your presentations and the **Yeats poem that you plan to recite for your evaluation**. Review your Irish language notes for the exam (yes, the exam!) on Tuesday the 6^h.

Week Ten:	Wrapping Up the Quarter
12/5 9 – 11:30	Building a Nation: Dev, the Church, and the Village (SW)
12:30 – 2:30	Film: <i>The Informer</i> [92 minutes]
12/6 9 – 11:30	Irish Language Exam
12:30 – 2:30	Rehearsal time for final presentations
12/7 9 – 10:30	Collaborative Presentations
11 – 1	Collaborative Presentations
12/8 9:30 – 11:30	Collaborative Presentations
12:30 – 2:30	Collaborative Presentations

Assignment for winter break: read *Angela's Ashes* (Frank McCourt). Write a three-page response essay to *Angela's Ashes* on the subject of choices. Include both parents and the priests along with your discussion of Frank himself. It is due on Monday, January 9. And while you're at it, please consider reading *Banished Children of Eve*, a novel by Peter Quinn. It's long. You'll need the time.

Be aware that you will need to pay your \$500 (nonrefundable) deposit to do the study abroad portion of the program by Friday, February 17, 2017. It's coming right up. Do you have your passport yet? Have a great holiday, and don't forget to sing "Oíche Chiúin" for anyone who will listen.
