

Ireland in History and Memory, 2016-2017 Winter Syllabus

Introduction:

Winter quarter includes work on Ireland and Irish America in the 20th and early 21st centuries, including the issues facing the Irish people after the partition of Ireland, how Irish America came into being, the role of the Irish in the American Civil War, the Troubles of Northern Ireland, the impact of the European Union, and the multi-layered creative struggles for identity by the contemporary Irish at home and abroad.

Faculty:

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

Schedule:

Mondays 9:30-11:30 (B1105) 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 11:45-1:00 (Com 320)
 Thursdays 9:30-11:30 (B1105) and 12:30-2:30 (B1105)

Program Texts for Winter Quarter

Angela's Ashes (Frank McCourt)
The Irish Way: Becoming American in the Multiethnic City (James R. Barrett)
The Immortal Irishman (Timothy Egan)
Postnationalist Ireland (Richard Kearney)
An Anthology of Modern Irish Poetry (Wes Davis, editor)
Making Sense of the Troubles (David McKittrick and David McVea)

Assignments:

one 3-page essay about choices in *Angela's Ashes* (due 1/10)
 one integrative essay on Irish America, eight pages (due 2/10)
 one visual response to the Troubles (due 2/14)
 other seminar writing, as assigned
 Irish language homework, as assigned
 participation in at least one play reading
 participation in final collaborative presentation
 two poems (one in Irish, one in English) to be learned by heart

NOTE: If you plan to go to Donegal with the program in spring quarter, your non-refundable **deposit of \$500 is due Friday, February 17** at the cashier's office, or through payment online (go to my.evergreen.edu/studyabroad; this program will come up). The remaining **\$1000 is due Monday, April 10**. Be sure you have a **passport** and that it won't expire in 2017.

Assignment for Week One: Read *Angela's Ashes* over winter break. Your response paper – which should be about the choices made by the adults in Frank's life, as well as Frank's own choices, is due in seminar on Tuesday the 10th; come prepared to discuss what you have read and written. It needs to be typed, double spaced, with 1" margins, and stapled. In addition, please read *Making Sense of the Troubles*, introduction and Chapter One (pp.1-25) only, to get yourself started.

| Week One: | Post-national Ireland in the mid-20th century |
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| 1/9 | 9:30 – 11:30 Reviewing the Irish Language; Ireland in the 20 th Century (SW) 12:30 – 2:30 Film: <i>The Field</i> [113 minutes] |
| 1/10 | 9:30 – 11:30 Seminar on <i>Angela's Ashes</i> and <i>The Field</i> 12:30 – 2:30 The "Real Irish" and the "Scots/Scotch-Irish" (SW) |
| 1/11 | 9:30 – 11:30 Irish and American Instrumental Music (SW) 11:45 – 1:00 Join the Session! (Bring your instruments and sheet music) |
| 1/12 | 9:30 – 11:30 Irish American: The History of "Hyphenated Identities" in America (GC) 12:30 – 2:30 Summation |

Assignment for Week Two: Read the first part of *The Immortal Irishman* (pp.1-127). Take three notable quotations from the first half of the text, type them up, and explain why you chose each of them in writing. Bring this with you to Tuesday's seminar, and be prepared to discuss your choices with your classmates.

| Week Two: | Irish America and the Civil War |
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| 1/16 | all day Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday |
| 1/17 | 9:30 – 11:30 Seminar on <i>The Immortal Irishman</i> , pt. 1 12:30 – 2:30 Understanding the American Civil War (GC) |
| 1/18 | 9:30 – 11:30 Film: <i>Songcatcher</i> [109 minutes] 11:45 – 1:00 Join the Session! (Bring your instruments) |
| 1/19 | 9:30 – 11:30 American Minstrelsy (SW) 12:30 – 2:30 Summation |

Assignment for Week Three: Read the remainder of *The Immortal Irishman* (pp.131-319). Take three notable quotations from the second half of the text, type them up, and explain why you chose each of them in writing. Bring this with you to Tuesday's seminar, and be prepared to discuss your choices with your classmates.

| Week Three: | Irish American Labor: Mines, Railroads, Docks |
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| 1/23 | 9:30 – 11:30 Union Triumphant: Reconstruction, Capital, and the West (GC) 12:20 – 2:30 Film: <i>The Molly Maguires</i> [124 minutes] STARTING EARLY!! |
| 1/24 | 9:30 – 11:30 Seminar on <i>The Immortal Irishman</i> , pt. 2 12:20 – 2:30 No Irish Need Apply (SW) |
| 1/25 | 9:30 – 11:30 Language Review Intensive (SW) 11:45 – 1:00 Join the Session! (Bring your instruments) |
| 1/26 | 9:30 – 11:30 Late 19 th C. America: Immigration, Industrialization, & Labor(GC) 12:30 – 2:30 Summation |

Assignment for Week Four: Read *The Irish Way* (Barrett), through page 155. Take three notable quotations from the first part of the book, type them up, and explain why you chose each of them in writing. Bring this with you to Tuesday's seminar, and be prepared to discuss your choices with your classmates.

| Week Four: | Irish America and Back Again | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1/30 | 9:30 – 11:30 | Machine Politics in America (GC) |
| | 12:20 – 2:30 | Film: <i>The Last Hurrah</i> [121 minutes] STARTING EARLY!! |
| 1/31 | 9:30 – 11:30 | Seminar on <i>The Irish Way</i> , pt. 1 |
| | 12:30 – 2:30 | The Women of Irish America (SW) |
| 2/1 | 9:30 – 11:30 | Readers' Theatre: <i>Philadelphia, Here I Come!</i> (Brian Friel) |
| | 11 – 1 | Join the Session! (Bring your instruments) |
| 2/2 | 9:30 – 11:30 | Making the Irish Safe for America: Stars and Politicians (SW) |
| | 12:30 – 2:30 | Summation |

Assignment for Week Five: Read *The Irish Way* (Barrett), page 157-292. In addition, read "Krapp's Last Tape" by Samuel Beckett (*Modern and Contemporary Irish Drama*) together with "On Samuel Beckett" (pp. 517-539). Each of you needs to go online and find one relevant piece of information about any of the following topics: Theater of the Absurd, Brendan Behan, Samuel Beckett, 1950s/60s Ireland, and Irish prisons. Type up what you have found, list its source, put your name on the paper, and come in prepared to read and discuss what you have found to others in small group discussions. The point of this assignment is to fill in gaps of your understanding about what it means to exist in a postwar world, and how people responded to that world. Your essay on Irish America is due on Friday, February 17, (e-mailed as a pdf) so start now! Do not include materials from Week Five; it's just about Irish America. Refer to the cheat sheet too!

| Week Five: | The Irish in Prison – Figuratively and Literally | |
|-------------------|---|--|
| 2/6 | 9:30 – 11:30 | Samuel Beckett and Brendan Behan (SW) |
| | 12:30 – 2:30 | Film: <i>The Quare Fellow</i> [85 minutes] |
| 2/7 | 9:30 – 11:30 | Seminar on your work about the prisons and playwrights |
| | 12:30 – 2:30 | The Alcoholic Republics: Ireland and America (GC) |
| 2/8 | 9:30 – 11:15 | Film: <i>Krapp's Last Tape</i> (Samuel Beckett) |
| | 11:30 – 1:00 | Workshop with the Press Gang (musicians) |
| 2/9 | 9:30 – 11:30 | Irish and Irish-American Mental Health (SW) |
| | 12:30 – 2:30 | Summation |

Assignment for Week Six: Read *Making Sense of the Troubles*, pp.134-242, which will take you from 1980 to (essentially) the present. Your visual response to the Troubles is due on Tuesday afternoon; come prepared to describe what you have created. Your integrative essay on Irish America is due on Friday, February 17, which also happens to be the same day that your \$500 deposit is due – [my.evergreen.edu/study abroad](http://my.evergreen.edu/study%20abroad) – for the spring quarter visit to Ireland. At this point you should have purchased your plane tickets and started to make plans for your small independent spring project, whatever that may be. It will comprise a section of your final essay in spring quarter.

| Week Six: | | The Troubles |
|------------------|--------------|---|
| 2/13 | 9:30 – 11:30 | Making Sense of the Troubles (SW) |
| | 12:30 – 2:30 | Film: <i>Some Mother's Son</i> [112 minutes] |
| 2/14 | 9:30 – 11:30 | Seminar on The Troubles |
| | 12:30 – 2:30 | Sharing of Visual Responses on The Troubles |
| 2/15 | 9:30 – 11:30 | Readers' Theatre: <i>Freedom of the City</i> (Brian Friel) |
| | 11:45 – 1:00 | Songs and Poems of the North (no instruments this week) |
| 2/16 | 9:30 – 11:30 | Reagan, Thatcher, and the Conservative Counterrevolution (GC) |
| | 12:30 – 2:30 | Summation – thinking about the final presentations |

Assignment for Week Seven: Read “By the Bog of Cats” by Marina Carr (*Modern and Contemporary Irish Drama*) together with “On Marina Carr” (pp. 577-587) and “Translating Women into Irish Theatre History” by Mary Trotter (pp. 600-606). In addition, read the selected passages from *Postnationalist Ireland* (pp. 1-12, 99-142, and 178-188). Take three notable quotations from the text, type them up, and explain why you chose each of them in writing. Bring this with you to Tuesday’s seminar, and be prepared to discuss your choices with your classmates.

| Week Seven: | | Ireland and its Traveling People |
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| 2/20 | all day | no class meeting: Presidents’ Day Holiday |
| 2/21 | 9:30 – 11:30 | The Traveling People (SW) IN C3105!! LOOK!! |
| | 12:30 – 2:30 | Film: <i>Into the West</i> [97 minutes] |
| 2/22 | 9:30 – 11:30 | Readers’ Theatre: <i>By the Bog of Cats</i> (Marina Carr) |
| | 11:45 – 1:00 | Join the Session! (Bring your instruments) |
| 2/23 | 9:30 – 11:30 | The West in the American and Irish Imaginations (GC) |
| | 12:30 – 2:30 | Summation |

Assignment for Week Eight: Read “The Weir” by Conor McPherson (*Modern and Contemporary Irish Drama*) together with “On Conor McPherson” (pp. 559-572) and “Postcolonialism and Irish Theatre” by Victor Merriman, pp. 594-599. Finally, go online and find (and read) a short article or opinion piece about the power and position of the Catholic Church in Ireland after, say, 2013. Bring that article in with you on Tuesday and be prepared to discuss it in small groups; no written paper necessary.

| Week Eight: | | The Contemporary Irish Cultural Explosion, part 1 |
|--------------------|--------------|--|
| 2/27 | 9:30 – 11:30 | Mary Robinson, the Irish Dancing Body, and the Celtic Tiger (SW) |
| | 12:30 – 2:30 | Film: <i>Riverdance in NYC</i> [102 minutes] |
| 2/28 | 9:30 – 11:30 | Seminar about the church articles that you found online |
| | 12:30 – 2:30 | Language Review Intensive (SW) |
| 3/1 | 9:30 – 11:30 | Readers’ Theatre: <i>The Weir</i> (Conor McPherson) |
| | 11:45 – 1:00 | Join the Session! (Bring your instruments) |
| 3/2 | 9:30 – 11:30 | Patrick Kavanagh: Poet of Modern Ireland (GC) |
| | 12:30 – 2:30 | Summation |

Assignment for Week Nine: Read carefully through the poems of *Modern Irish Poetry*. Bring five of the most meaningful poems with you to seminar, and be prepared to read

and discuss these poems with the members of your small group (no response paper necessary). Write these poems out by hand so that you have the experience of it.

| Week Nine: | | The Contemporary Irish Cultural Explosion, part 2 |
|-------------------|--------------|--|
| 3/6 | 9:30 – 11:30 | Contemporary Irish Cultural Expression (SW) |
| | 12:30 – 2:30 | Film: <i>Brooklyn</i> [111 minutes] |
| 3/7 | 9:30 – 11:30 | Seminar on poetry |
| | 12:30 – 2:30 | Rehearsals for the final presentations |
| 3/8 | 9:30 – 11:30 | Contemporary Irish Music (SW) |
| | 11:45 – 1:00 | Join the Final Session! (Bring your instruments and song lyrics) |
| 3/9 | 9:30 – 11:30 | Seamus Heaney: Poet of the Past (GC) |
| | 12:30 – 2:30 | Summation |

Assignment for Week Ten: No reading! Prepare your final collaborative presentations (up to 1/2 hour per group) and poems that you expect to recite by heart for your evaluation. Do your final rehearsals and “clean-up” of your presentations in preparation for Wednesday. Start in on your self-evaluations by rereading what you wrote for fall quarter, then adding to it.

| Week Ten: | | Wrapping Up |
|------------------|--------------|--|
| 3/13 | 9:30 – 11:30 | Ireland RIGHT NOW (SW) |
| | 12:30 – 2:30 | Film: <i>Cré na Cille</i> [93 minutes] |
| 3/14 | 9:30 – 11:30 | Final rehearsals |
| | 12:30 – 2:30 | Final rehearsals |
| 3/15 | 9:30 – 11:30 | Collaborative Presentations |
| | 11:45 – 1:00 | Collaborative Presentations |
| 3/16 | 9:30 – 11:30 | Preparation for Study Abroad |
| | 12:30 – 2:30 | Potluck Lunch at Sean’s house |

FINAL NOTES: If you are traveling to Ireland in spring quarter, you are expected to arrive at Oideas Gael in Gleann Cholm Cille no later than Saturday, April 29. This means that you can leave here as soon as you if you want, but definitely should leave the United States by April 23. The remainder of your deposit of \$1000 (total deposit: \$1500) needs to be uploaded to your evergreen.edu/studyabroad account by April 10 – the end of Week Two of spring quarter. Note: if you leave in March, make certain that you have excellent raingear and an *endless amount of money*, as Ireland is not only cold and rainy at that time of year, but also quite expensive. The village of Gleann Cholm Cille is quite small and everyone knows where Oideas Gael is. Fly into Dublin and take McGeehan’s bus north to the Gleann on the morning of Saturday the 29th. It should cost about 20 to 25 euro. You are expected to **return to class on Wednesday, May 31st** so that you can participate in an intensive gotta-get-the-paper-done workshop that will result in a 20+page essay about Ireland, about your year...and about your life. The paper will be due to Sean as a pdf by e-mail on Wednesday, June 7.