1. Introduction to Ireland (3 credits) Instructor: Professor Kevin Whelan

HIST 34430; ANTH 34320; IRST 24208; SOC 34123

Satisfies the University History Requirement

Course description

The History of Ireland 1798-2010

Evolution of Irish culture from the eighteenth century to the contemporary period; It aims to give students a foundational understanding of the cultural inheritance of the island. While organized in broadly chronological terms, it will also examine crucial thematic concerns—landscape, history, languages, economy, society, politics and government, literature, music, sport. This course explores the broad political, cultural, economic and social history of the island of Ireland from the eighteenth to the twentieth-first century. It also explores the nature of contemporary Irish culture. Themes covered include the 1798 Rebellion, Catholic Emancipation, the Great Irish Famine, emigration, the 1916 Rising and the Northern Ireland Troubles. The lectures will be supported by field trips, museum and theatre visits, and interviews with distinguished modern Irish citizens.

Lectures (TBC)

1. Three revolutions (1688, 1776, 1789) and a failure
2. The 1798 Rebellion Act of Union
3. Daniel O’Connell
4. The Great Famine
5. Post-Famine Ireland
6. The Irish Diaspora in America
7. 1916, the Civil War and Partition: North and South
8. The reciprocity of tears: The Northern Troubles
9. The Celtic Tiger: The contemporary economy
10. Politics and political parties in Ireland
11. Society and culture in contemporary Ireland
12. Understanding James Joyce
13. Sport in modern Ireland
14. Northern Ireland: The peace process
15. The Irish language now
16. History and memory in Ireland
17. From Uilleann pipes to U2: Understanding Irish music
18. Religion in modern Ireland
19. Seamus Heaney’s North
20. Brian Friel’s Translations
21. Introduction to the Burren
22. Cultural anthropology in County Clare
23. Environmental issues in contemporary Ireland
24. Modern Ireland: Boston or Berlin
Assessment 800 word journal assignment on a specified topic per week: feedback and suggestions for improvement offered by course director each week: these are accumulated into a final 5,000 word essay [6 weeks x 8 = 4,800 words]. Students will also be assessed on the quality of their participation, especially in the Q and A sessions, on field trips and museum visits, and in class.

Reading


Brian Feeney, A pocket history of the Troubles (Dublin, O"Brien Press, 2004).


Kevin Whelan (ed.), Daniel O’Connell (Dublin, Keough Centre, 2002).

Kevin Whelan was named the inaugural Michael J. Smurfit director of the Keough Naughton Notre Dame Centre in Dublin in 1998. He has been a visiting professor at New York University, Boston College and Concordia University (Montreal). He has lectured in over a dozen countries, and at the Sorbonne, Cambridge, Oxford, Torino, Berkeley, Yale, Dartmouth and Louvain. He has written or edited fifteen books and over one hundred articles on Ireland’s history, geography and culture. These include The Tree of Liberty. Radicalism, Catholicism and the Construction of Irish Identity 1760-1830 (1996), Fellowship of Freedom: The United Irishmen and the 1798 Rebellion (1998), and the best selling Atlas of the Irish Rural Landscape (1997). Among influential articles are those on „An underground gentry?,” „The Republic in the Village,” „The Memories of „The Dead,”” and „The Green Atlantic.” Since 1999, he has also directed (with Seamus Deane) the annual Irish Seminar, the leading seminar in the field of Irish Studies, whose faculty has included Edward Said, Seamus Heaney, Derek Walcott, Homi Bhabha, Fred Jameson and Benedict Anderson. Between 1995 and 1998, he was historical advisor to the Irish government on the Famine and the 1798 Rebellion.

2. Reading the Irish Revival (3 credits) Instructor: Professor P.J. Mathews

ENGL 24521 and IRST 34220

Satisfies the University Literature Requirement

Course description
This course will examine the Irish Revival (1891-1939) as a dynamic moment in modern Irish literature in which key literary figures like W.B. Yeats, Lady Gregory, John Millington Synge, and James Joyce worked to make Ireland a centre of cultural innovation once again. The significance of the Revival to Ireland's decolonization and debates over an Irish national literature will provide a central focus. Texts to be considered will include: the drama of J. M. Synge and Lady Gregory, the poetry of W. B. Yeats, and James Joyce's Dubliners.
Learning Goals

- Students will learn to identify various kinds of formal experiment, which characterizes the literary output of the Irish Revival. Examples include the use of dialect and folklore in the drama of Synge and Lady Gregory, and the mixing of myth and contemporary reflection in the work of Joyce and Yeats. They will also learn to recognize ways in which these texts are products of their historical moment and cultural locale.

- Students will be introduced to a variety of readings of the texts on this course from a number of theoretical perspectives including: modernism, feminism, postcolonial theory and Marxism.

- The Irish Revival will be presented as a progressive and liberational movement. The texts on the course will provoke discussion about the role of culture in supporting and opposing oppressive power structures. In discussion students will be encouraged to reflect on the implications of the cultural choices they make today.

Assessment

800 word journal assignment on a specified topic per week: feedback and suggestions for improvement offered by course director each week: these are accumulated into a final 5,000 word essay [6 weeks x 8 = 4,800 words]. Students will also be assessed on the quality of their participation, presentations, on field trips and museum visits, and in class.

Reading

Douglas Hyde, ‘The Necessity for De-Anglicising Ireland’ (supplied digitally)

W.B. Yeats, Selected Poems (Penguin)

James Joyce, Dubliners (Penguin)

From John P. Harrington (ed.) Modern Irish Drama (Norton):

W.B. Yeats, Cathleen Ni Houlihan and On Baile’s Strand

Lady Gregory, Spreading the News and The Rising of the Moon

J.M. Synge, Playboy of the Western World

Sean O’Casey, Juno and the Paycock

P. J. Mathews completed his doctoral research at Trinity College Dublin and joined UCD in 2004. Prior to that he lectured at St Patrick's College, Dublin City University (2001-2004) and Trinity College Dublin (1999-2001). He was Director of the Parnell Summer School from 2002-05 and was appointed Naughton Fellow and Visiting Associate Professor of English at the University of Notre Dame for 2007-2008. Dr. Mathews is the founder and Director of UCDscholarcast (www.ucd.ie/scholarcast), a member of the Humanities Institute of Ireland, and co-convenor of the Irish Studies Doctoral Research Network.