

SS115 Representing Ireland: Literature and Film

6 ECTS/3 US Semester Credits

COURSE OBJECTIVE

Fiction, poetry, drama and film have all been used to represent 'Ireland' and 'Irishness'. This course analyses the varied ways this has been done in English-language media. The course is structured around themes like the representation of 'The West', the contrast between city and country, the politics of theatre, gender identity, and the meaning of nationality. We examine works from writers like W.B. Yeats, James Joyce, Augusta Gregory, J.M. Synge, Liam O'Flaherty, Brian Friel, Mary O'Malley, Eavan Boland and Patrick McCabe. We also view and discuss movies directed by American and Irish film-makers.

COURSE OUTLINE

Week 1 Introductory Lecture
W.B. Yeats

Week 2 Representing the Aran Islands
Irish Theatre 1 and 2

Week 3 Irish Cinema 1
James Joyce

Week 4 The Butcher Boy
Irish Cinema 2
Contemporary Poetry

COURSE TEXTS

1. J. Harrington (ed.): *Modern Irish Drama* (Norton paperbacks)
2. J. Joyce: *Dubliners* (Penguin paperbacks)
3. W.B. Yeats: *Selected Poetry* (Penguin paperbacks)
4. Patrick McCabe: *The Butcher Boy*

Additional material will be supplied as handouts. Films will be available for viewing in the University Library. Films to be viewed will include *The Quiet Man* (1952), *The Butcher Boy* (1992), *The Dead* (1987), *Michael Collins* (1996) and *Once* (2007).

SELECTED LIBRARY READING

Seamus Deane, *A Short History of Irish Literature*
Declan Kiberd, *Inventing Ireland*
David Cairns and Shaun Richards, *Writing Ireland*
Lionel Pilkington, *Theatre and the State in 20th Century Ireland*
G. J. Watson, *Irish Identity and the Literary Revival*
Lance Pettitt, *Screening Ireland*
Kevin Rockett, John Hill and Luke Gibbons, *Cinema and Ireland*
Martin McLoone, *Irish Film: The Emergence of a Contemporary Cinema*

REQUIREMENTS FOR CREDITS

1. Attendance and participation in all regularly scheduled lectures and seminars.
2. Two essays of 1,500 words each on topics assigned by the Course Director in Representing Ireland: Literature and Film.

COURSE PROFESSORS

Sean Ryder, M.A., Ph.D

Sean Ryder is Established Professor of English at NUI Galway. He was born in the United States and received his PhD from University College Dublin. His main research fields are nineteenth-century Irish writing and digital humanities. He has published widely on the culture of Irish nationalism.

Lionel Pilkington, M.A., Ph.D

Lionel Pilkington is Personal Professor of English at NUI Galway. His research interests include theatre and political conflict in Ireland, critical theory and the cultural impact of colonialism. His book *Theatre and the State in 20th Century Ireland: Cultivating the People* was published in 2001 and his book *Theatre and Ireland* in 2010.

Fiona Bateman, M.A., Ph.D

Fiona Bateman is a graduate of University College Dublin and NUI Galway. She coordinates the MA in Public Advocacy & Activism at NUI Galway and teaches courses on Irish cinema, cinema and colonialism, and African writing. Her publications include articles about the Irish foreign missions and co-edited collections of essays including *Studies in Settler Colonialism* (2011).

Elaine Cosgrove, M.A.

Elaine Cosgrove is a graduate of NUI Galway and Trinity College Dublin. Her first volume of poetry, *Transmissions*, was published in 2017 by Dedalus Press. Her work was selected for the anthology *Best New British & Irish Poets* (2017) and was longlisted for the 2016 London Magazine Poetry Prize.

Mary O'Malley

Mary O'Malley is one of Ireland's leading poets. She was born in Connemara and educated at NUI, Galway, and has lectured in several universities in Europe and the United States. She has published eight volumes of poetry, including *Valparaiso* (2012) and *Playing the Octopus* (2016). Mary was elected to Aosdána, the honorary affiliation of Irish artists in 2001, and her work has been translated into several languages. She is a frequent broadcaster on Irish radio.