

ENU11003 Irish Writing

Module convenors: Dr Paul Delaney, Prof Chris Morash

Additional lecturers: Dr Rosie Lavan, Prof Andrew Murphy

ECTS weighting: 10 ECTS

Term taught: Hilary Term 2025 (JF)

Assessment: Mid-term essay and end-of-term exam

Lectures: Two lectures per week:

Mondays, 4pm – 5pm (L2.15, in TBSI, Pearse Street)

Thursdays, 2pm – 3pm (1008, Edmund Burke Theatre, in Arts Building)

Note: Lectures begin in Week 1 and run consecutively until Week 12 (inclusive).

Note: Tutorials begin in Week 3 and run consecutively until Week 10 (inclusive).

Note: There are no lectures or tutorials in Week 7 (Reading Week), and only one lecture in Weeks 3 and 9 due to Bank Holidays for St Brigid's Day and St Partick's Day. Module contents have been configured to account for these Bank Holidays.

Module Description:

This team-taught module introduces students to a broad range of texts in the Irish literary tradition. It encompasses material from the eighteenth century to the present, and engages with some of the most innovative and exciting literature to be produced over the last 300 years. The module is generically diverse, and includes work by poets, novelists, playwrights and short-story writers. It is not organised chronologically; rather, material is clustered around a number of concepts or ideas ('Satire', 'History', 'Violence' and 'Place'), with several lectures given over to a discussion of each of these issues. Each set of lectures begins with an introduction, and this is followed by several author- or text-specific lectures.

Module Outline:

- 1 a) Introduction (20 January)
- b) 1: Satire: Introduction (23 January)

- 2 a) Jonathan Swift, *A Modest Proposal* (27 January)
b) Maria Edgeworth, *Castle Rackrent* (30 January)
- 3 a) Bank Holiday: St Brigid's Day (3 February) – no lecture
b) Patrick Kavanagh, 'The Great Hunger' (6 February)
- 4 a) James Joyce, *Dubliners* (10 February)
b) 2: History: Introduction (13 February)
- 5 a) Brian Friel, *Making History* (17 February)
b) Elizabeth Bowen, *The Last September* (20 February)
- 6 a) Seamus Heaney, selected poems (24 February)
b) Eavan Boland, selected poems (27 February)
- 7 Reading Week (3–7 March)
- 8 a) 3: Violence: Introduction (10 March)
b) Oscar Wilde, 'The Ballad of Reading Gaol' (13 March)
- 9 a) Bank Holiday: St Patrick's Day (17 March) – no lecture
b) Edna O'Brien, *The Country Girls* (20 March)
- 10 a) Stewart Parker, *Pentecost* (24 March)
b) 4: Place: Introduction (27 March)
- 11 a) J.M. Synge, *Riders to the Sea*, *The Aran Islands* (31 March)
b) W.B. Yeats, *The Dreaming of the Bones* (3 April)
- 12 a) Samuel Beckett, *That Time* (7 April)
b) Conclusion (10 April)

Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- discuss a broad range of texts in the Irish literary tradition
- situate those texts in their larger cultural, historical and literary contexts
- explore the relationship between texts, authors, genres and movements
- employ a range of interpretive strategies and critical perspectives
- engage in advanced studies of modern and contemporary Irish writing at Sophister level.