

Foundation Course

DBS Study Abroad Program

Syllabus: Spring and Fall 2009

General Introduction

The purpose of the Foundation Course is to equip students with a basic knowledge of the primary historical and cultural factors that have contributed to the development of contemporary Irish socio/cultural identity. The program is divided into four interconnecting modules: Introduction to Anglo-Irish Literature, The Political Landscape of Ireland, Introduction to Irish History and Introduction to Irish Society and Culture. The modules are interactive in terms of delivery by lecturers and participation by students. They are also complemented by two four-day field trips which are an integral element of the program. Lecture seminars are three hours each, totalling 9 hours for each module and 36 hours for the entire program. Students are assessed by means of an essay assignment to be presented four weeks after the date of course completion. The assignment topic takes the form of a comparative analysis of the literature, history, culture and politics of the United States and Ireland.

Class Time

Class times will be advised prior to student arrival and will be set in conjunction with DBS School of Arts time-tabling.

Module One

Introduction to Anglo-Irish Literature - Prof. Michael Kane

The West of Ireland field trip incorporates aspects of the life of W.B. Yeats, John Millington Synge and James Joyce.

Course Learning Objectives

This module is designed as an introduction to Anglo-Irish literature, that is, to modern literature in Ireland written in the English language. Focusing on the writings of such authors as W. B. Yeats, J. M. Synge and James Joyce, the aim of this course is to familiarize students with literary, social and cultural factors that led to the development of a body of literature that is of great importance in both national and world contexts.

Readings

W. B. Yeats, *Collected Poems*, any edition.

J.M. Synge, *The Playboy of the Western World* (1907), Oxford Classics, 2001.

Seán O'Casey, *The Plough and the Stars* (1926), any edition.

James Joyce, "The Dead" (1914), from *Dubliners*, Penguin Classics, 2000; extracts from *Ulysses* (1922).

Seamus Heaney, *Opened Ground: Collected Poems 1966 – 1996*, Faber and Faber, 1998.

Eavan Boland, *Poems*, any edition.

Topics

Class 1 - W. B. Yeats and the Irish Revival

This module will provide an introduction to Irish literature and will focus on some poems by Yeats and his leading role in the Irish Revival. His one-act play *Cathleen Ni Houlihan* (1902)

is a prime example of mingling mythical symbolism and nationalism that is so characteristic of the Celtic revival from the turn of the 19th century.

Class 2 – Two Plays that Caused Riots in the Abbey Theatre

In this module we look first at J. M. Synge's play *The Playboy of the Western World* and then at Seán O'Casey's *The Plough and the Stars* (1926) and examine what it was that caused such offense when they were first produced.

Class 3 - James Joyce

In this module we look at the career and extracts from the writings of James Joyce - such as the short story *The Dead* (1914) and the novels *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (1914) and *Ulysses* (1922).

Class 4 - Heaney and Boland

Here we compare the treatment of Irish history in a selection of poems from two more recent poets and look at how they deal with such topics as Viking Dublin, the famine, emigration and "the troubles."

Module Two

Political Landscape of Ireland – Mr. Seamus White

As part of the Northern Ireland **field trip**, students will visit Stormont Buildings, The Northern Ireland Legislative Assembly, An Culturainn (Irish Language Revival Center Belfast) and The Murals Tour.

Course Content

This course introduces students to the political landscape of both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. It examines the contemporary political landscape in the Republic of Ireland by exploring topics such as political culture, the constitution, political parties, elections and the electoral system, the government and the Oireachtas (parliament), the position of the Taoiseach (prime minister) and Ireland's position in the European Union. The course also addresses the politics of Northern Ireland through examination of the historical roots of the Northern Ireland political conflict, political developments since the 1990s and the future potential direction of Northern Ireland politics.

Learning Outcomes:

After completing this course, students will understand political and government structures and processes in the Republic of Ireland. They will also be able to identify the background to the Northern Ireland conflict and the recent journey out of conflict.

Course Reading List:

John Coakley and Michael Gallagher (eds), *Politics in the Republic of Ireland*, 4th ed (Routledge and PSAI Press, 2005)

Jonathan Tonge, *The New Northern Irish Politics?* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005)

Module Three

Introduction to Irish History - Mr. Donal Casey

Site visits will include: Kilmainham Gaol, The National Museum and Dublin Castle.

Course Learning Objectives

This course is designed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the broad sweep of Irish history from the earliest Stone Age inhabitants right up to the "Celtic Tiger"

economic boom of the early 21st century. Students will be taken through the key turning points in Irish history and asked to examine how and why events unfolded as they did. They will also be invited to think critically about opposing views of Irish history, in particular the stimulating and often heated debate between “nationalist” and “revisionist” schools of thought.

Readings

Readings will include a selection from the following:

O'Brien, Marie. Ireland: A Concise History (3 rev ed)
Beckett, J C. The Making of Modern Ireland 1603-1923 (New ed.)
Brown, Terence Ireland - A Social and Cultural History 1922-1985
Lewis, Samuel - Atlas of Ireland
Lyons, F S L . Ireland Since The Famine
Coogan, Tim Pat. Ireland in the Twentieth Century
Lee JJ. Ireland 1922-1985 (Cambridge)

Brown, Terence. Ireland A Social and Cultural History 1922-2002 (Harper Perennial)
Foster, R F. Modern Ireland 1600-1972
English, Richard. Irish Freedom - A History of Irish Nationalism (Macmillan)

DVD / Videos

Munn, Brian. A History of Ireland (Video)
Morrison George Mise Eire (1959) Video
O Mórdha, Seán - Seven Ages (DVD)
Jordan, Neil. Michael Collins (1996) (Video)

Topics

Ancient Ireland: Stone-Age hunter gatherers, mysterious monuments, Celtic druids, Christian monks and painted warriors. c 8000 BC - c 900 AD

Medieval and Early Modern Ireland: Marauding Vikings, Medieval Gaelic chieftains & Norman lords, King Henry VIII and his six wives, the Protestant Reformation, The Flight of the Earls and the death of Gaelic Ireland.

18th & 19th Century Ireland: Plantations, penal laws, United Irishmen Rebellion, Catholic Emancipation, The Great Famine and the rise of radical Irish nationalism.

20th Century Ireland: The 1916 Rising, the War of Independence, the Civil War, the Irish Free State and the Celtic Tiger.

Module Four

Introduction to Irish Culture and Society – Mr. Matt Nolan

Course Learning Objectives

This module is designed to provide students with knowledge of social and cultural aspects of contemporary Irish society. Emphasis is placed on four key themes of Irish life: emigration/immigration, religion and its decline, socio-economic inequality and national identity. The module's primary objective is to provide students with a clearer understanding of the influences that have shaped and formed a dominant socio-cultural system in today's Ireland.

Readings

Tovey, Hilary and Perry Share. (2000) A Sociology of Ireland: Gill & Macmillan: Dublin.

McLaughlin, J. Ed (1997) Location and Dislocation in Contemporary Irish Society: Cork University Press: Cork.

Kearney, Richard. (1997) Postnationalist Ireland: Politics, Culture, and Philosophy: Routledge: London.

Paseta, Senia. (1999) Before The Revolution: Nationalism, Social Change and Ireland's Catholic Elite 1879 – 1922: Cork University Press: Cork.

Topics

Class 1 - Population and Migration

Migration has been a constant theme in the development of socio/cultural values in Irish society. This lecture explores the impact of emigration on rural and urban Ireland and examines its economic and social legacy.

Class 2 - The Role of Religion

The influence of the Roman Catholic Church in the social, political and cultural life of Irish society cannot be underestimated. This discussion examines the circumstances that gave rise to this phenomenon and questions the negative aspects of that situation.

Class 3 - Class, Inequality and Poverty

This lecture deals with the issue of class and inequality in contemporary Ireland. Two questions are raised: 1) What place, if any, does class occupy in the self-understanding of Irish society? 2) How has class impacted the socio/cultural value system?

Class 4 - Nation and Identity

In this lecture we discuss and explore aspects of Irish cultural and national identity. Questions about the construction of Irish identity are raised and examined.