

HU5000

Irish Life & Literature

Module Leader:
Dr Ruan O'Donnell

ECTS
Credits: 6



Module aim

To provide visiting US students with a comprehensive introduction to Irish history and culture by means of three, interlinked strands of learning.

Syllabus

Students attend an intensive series of lecture/ seminars in which they are instructed in the history of modern Ireland, Irish writing in English and Irish folklore and folklife. The three strands cover such diverse but linked topics as the emergence of the modern Ireland, the impact of the Great Irish Famine, the origin of the Irish Folklore Commission, Storytelling and folk belief and the development of Irish literature.

Learning Experience

The Summer School module comprises three strands of fifteen contact hours, totalling forty-five lecture hours of study. Preparatory reading and the format of small group teaching facilitates an intensive learning environment which is supplemented by field trips and expert guided tours.

Learning Outcomes

Cognitive (Knowledge, Understanding, Application, Analysis, Evaluation, Synthesis)

On the successful completion of the course students will:
Understand the key issues and historical events which underpinned the struggle for Irish Independence Identify the main historical figures and organizations associated with the creation of a modern state in Ireland.

Appreciate the significance of informal education, folk practice and tradition in pre-Famine Irish society
Account for the emergence of a Hiberno-English literary culture in Ireland Appropriately contextualize the careers of Joyce, Yeats, and other major writers

Texts

Prime Text/s

T. Bartlett (1992) *The fall and rise of the Irish Nation*,
D. Dickson (2000) *New Foundations, Ireland 1660-1800*,
D. Kiberd (1996) *Inventing Ireland: the Literature of the Modern Nation*,

Other Texts:

J. Cahalan (1999) *Double Visions: Women and Men in Modern and Contemporary Irish Fiction*,
J. McCabe (1983) *James Joyce and the Revolution of the Word*,
J.J. Lee (1989) *Ireland, 1912-88*.

Sites We Visit

- Limerick City and Environs
- Dublin City
- Cliffs of Moher/Lahinch
- The National Museum of Ireland
- National Gallery of Ireland
- Historical Walking Tour of Dublin