

**Irish Literature and Culture**

Code: 100235  
ECTS Credits: 6

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500245 English Studies	OT	3	0
2500245 English Studies	OT	4	0

**Contact**

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**Use of languages**

Principal working language: english (eng)  
Some groups entirely in English: Yes  
Some groups entirely in Catalan: No  
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

**Prerequisites**

This course requires the student to have a basic knowledge of culture and society, departing from the knowledge obtained in the relevant subject taught in the first year.

This course requires the student to read thoroughly and with great attention to detail.

**Objectives and Contextualisation**

The principal object is to stimulate interest in Irish literature in particular and literature in general.

**Skills**

**English Studies**

- Critically assessing the scientific, literary and cultural production in the English language.
- Demonstrate a comprehension of the relationship between factors, processes and phenomena of linguistics, literature, history and culture, and explaining it.
- Develop critical thinking and reasoning and knowing how to communicate effectively both in your mother tongue and in other languages.
- Distinguish and contrast the various theoretical and methodological models applied to the study of the English language, its literature and its culture.
- Identify the main literary, cultural and historical currents in the English language.
- Produce clear and well structured and detailed texts in English about complex topics, displaying a correct use of the organisation, connection and cohesion of the text.
- Rewrite and organize information and arguments coming from several sources in English and presenting them in a coherent and summarised way.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.

**Learning outcomes**

1. Analysing and interpreting in an advanced level secondary texts about the contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
2. Applying appropriate secondary academic sources to text comments and argumentative essays about contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
3. Carrying out oral presentations using secondary academic sources in relation to the contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
4. Communicating in the studied language in oral and written form, properly using vocabulary and grammar.
5. Comparing and relating in an advanced level various topics and texts of the contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
6. Comparing in an advanced level the methodologies of literary criticism applied to contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
7. Demonstrate a master of the specific methods of individual academic work that prepare the student for a postgraduate specialised education in the same or a different field of study.
8. Describing in detail and in an academic way the nature and main traits of the contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
9. Distinguishing the main ideas from the secondary ones and summarising the contents of primary and secondary texts about contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
10. Drawing up academic essays of medium length, using secondary academic sources in relation to the contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
11. Effectively communicating and applying the argumentative and textual processes to formal and scientific texts.
12. Explaining in detail and in an academic way the diachronic and synchronic evolution of the topics and texts of the contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
13. Localising secondary academic sources in the library or on the Internet related to the contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
14. Mastering the advanced knowledge and scientific methodologies related to linguistics, literature, history and culture that prepare the student for a postgraduate specialised education in the same or a different field of study.
15. Students must be capable of comprehending advanced academic or professional texts in their own language or the another acquired in the degree.
16. Students must be capable of precisely arguing ideas and opinions in their own language or another acquired in the degree.
17. Students must reflect on and give their opinion about primary texts of the contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
18. Summarising the content of academic primary and secondary sources about contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).

## Content

This course is an introduction to Irish literature of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The course is divided into two halves. The first focuses on the work of two classic Anglo-Irish writers: the great Modernist, James Joyce, the playwright, John Millington Synge, and the great poet, William Butler Yeats. Historically and socially, these writers and their works are located in the struggle for independence, the Easter Rising, the setting up of the Irish Free State (1922) and the ensuing Civil War (1922-3).

The second half of the course will focus on three novels: Edna O'Brien's *The Country Girls* (1960), John McGahern's *Amongst Women* (1990), and Claire Kilroy's *The Devil I Know* (2012). We will see to what extent the violent upheavals of the early decades cast a huge shadow over modern literary works as Ireland strives to come to terms with modernity. The possibility or impossibility of forgiveness and reconciliation, either between families or between north and south, becomes a central concern.

We will also look briefly, time permitting, at Irish music and other cultural manifestations.

A brief list of associated topics includes:

- The Abbey Theatre

- The Irish artist
- The Catholic Church
- National identity
- Nationalism and internationalism
- The Troubles
- Gender
- Sexuality and repression
- Myth, archetypes and stereotypes
- Celtic tigers

Primary Reading:

### Module 1

J.M. Synge, *The Playboy of the Western World and Other Plays* (intro. Ann Saddlemyer). Oxford: Oxford World Classics, 1995.

James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, (intro. Jeri Johnson). Oxford: Oxford World Classics, 2008.

Selection of Yeats's poetry.

### Module 2

Edna O'Brien, *The Country Girls*. London: Phoenix, 2007.

John McGahern, *Amongst Women*. London: Faber, 2008.

Claire Kilroy, *The Devil I Know*. London: Faber 2012.

## Methodology

1. Reading
2. Thinking
3. Discussing
4. Writing

## Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
<b>Type: Supervised</b>			
Classroom based activities	50	2	1, 5, 8, 3, 12, 4, 17
Supervised activities	25	1	1, 5, 8, 12, 10, 17
<b>Type: Autonomous</b>			
Student autonomy	50	2	1, 16, 6, 5, 15, 8, 12, 11, 4, 13, 17

## Evaluation

The subject is assessed in the following way:

- Participation in class and in the debates on the Virtual Campus, 20%

- Exams/written work, 2 x 40% = 80%
- The subject uses continuous assessment - students must complete all items.
- Class attendance is compulsory.
- The level of written and spoken English will be taken into account.
- Plagiarism, of any sort, will lead to an automatic fail.
- The handing-in of at least one exercise will exclude the student from the possibility of being qualified as *No available (not eligible for assessment)*
- Reassessment comprises a two-hour exam covering the entirety of the course material. It is the Faculty, not the teacher, who will determine the date and time. Only students who have completed the continuous assessment items are allowed to opt for reassessment.
- Procedure for Reviewing Grades Awarded: on carrying out each evaluation activity, lecturers will inform students (on Moodle) of the procedures to be followed for reviewing all grades awarded, and the date on which such a review will take place.
- In addition, students must have obtained an overall grade of between 3.5 & 4.9. Reassessment takes the form of a global exam which includes material from both modules. It is assessed on a pass/fail basis only. The student who passes will be awarded a grade of 5.
- Consequently, reassessment cannot be used to improve your final mark.
- Participation (20%) cannot be reassessed.

## Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Participation	20%	22	0.88	8, 3, 12, 4, 17
Written assessment	80%	3	0.12	1, 2, 16, 6, 5, 15, 14, 7, 8, 9, 12, 11, 4, 13, 10, 17, 18

## Bibliography

\*\* = primary reading. Please acquire and read these texts now.

### UNIT 1

\*\* J.M. Synge. *The Playboy of the Western World and Other Plays*, (intro. Ann Saddlemyer). Oxford: Oxford World Classics, 2008.

\*\* James Joyce. *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, (intro. Jeri Johnson). Oxford: Oxford World Classics, 2008.

\*\* William Butler Yeats -- Moodle

### UNIT 2

\*\*Edna O'Brien. *The Country Girls*. London: Phoenix, 2007.

\*\*John McGahern. *Amongst Women*. London: Faber, 2008.

\*\* Claire Kilroy, *The Devil I Know*. London: Faber, 2012.

### Basic bibliography to be found in the Humanities Library

Regan, Stephen (ed). *Irish Writing: An Anthology of Irish Literature in English 1789-1939*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2004.

Deane, Seamus (ed). *Field Day Anthology of Irish Writing* (3 volumes).

Donnelly, James S (ed). *Encyclopedia of Irish History and Culture*. Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2004.

Kiberd, Declan. *Synge and the Irish Language*. London: Macmillan, 1993.

Peach, Linden. *The Contemporary Irish Novel : Critical Readings*

Ranelagh, John O'Beirne. *A Short History of Ireland*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1983.

Shaffer, Brian (ed). *A Companion to the British and Irish novel 1945-2000*. Cambridge: Blackwell, 2005.

**Electronic Resources available at the UAB:**

*The Cambridge Companion to: James Joyce, Twentieth-Century Irish Drama, Irish Novel, and Modern Irish Culture.*