Irish Studies Minor

Villanova University hosts the Center for Irish Studies Program. Our interdisciplinary program features courses in five departments and offers an Irish language component that satisfies the College of Arts and Sciences language requirement. The Minor in Irish Studies is available to students in all degree programs. Students may structure and focus various Irish Studies electives into a unified program of study within the student’s overall degree goals.

Our faculty come from a range of disciplines, and the Center facilitates courses in Irish literature, history, language studies, art, politics, theatre, and philosophy, offering a Minor in Irish Studies to students from all colleges. Students can enroll in courses in the Irish language as well as in anthropology, literature, history, art, politics, theatre, and philosophy.

Fifteen credits are required to complete the minor, of which six credits are core requirements (one English course and one History course). Courses taken in Ireland may be used to complete the minor. The Irish language sequence may be taken to fulfill the College of Arts and Sciences language requirement.
Fall 2017 Courses

IS 1111 Introductory Irish Language I
Fulbright Language Instructor
(Two Sections)
MWF 8:30-9:20 -Or- MWF 1:30-2:20
TR 8:30-9:45 TR 2:30-3:45

Groundwork in Irish (Gaelic), including oral proficiency, aural comprehension and reading knowledge; for students beginning the study of the language. Supplementary language laboratory work on Irish culture and practicing spoken Irish. Successful completion of the course sequence, IS 1111 and IS 1112, satisfies the language requirement for the CLAS. Taught by a Fulbright language instructor from Ireland.
4.00 credits. Counts toward the Irish Studies Minor.

AAH 0299 The Art of Ireland
TR 6:00-7:15
Dr. Tina Waldeier-Bizzarro

This course seeks to stimulate an interest in and love of the visual culture of Ireland. This survey will run from the Stone Age through the Middle Ages, including: the megalithic dolmens and passage graves of Co. Meath, metal-and stone-work as well as ring- and hill-forts of the Bronze and Iron Ages, the Golden Age of manuscript illumination and metalwork of the Early Christian period, and the later medieval churches and monasteries of the 11th and 12th centuries. We will “visit” and study monuments such as the medieval monasteries at Glendalough and Skellig Michael, the Books of Kells, Durrow, and Lindisfarne, Newgrange Passage Grave, round towers, high crosses, and much, much more. Join us!
3.00 credits. Fulfills Arts Requirement; counts toward the Irish Studies Minor.
What does it mean to belong? In what ways is it fundamental to the human experience? How might the act of belonging influence understandings of personal, familial, and national identities? In the 20th and 21st Century, Irish writers continue to explore expressions of belonging, and in contrast, separation and isolation, in narratives throughout multiple genres. This English Core Literature and Writing Seminar will analyze and respond to modern and contemporary Irish short stories, novels, drama, and poetry in an effort to uncover the inextricable link between the vital experience of belonging and what it means to be Irish. Texts will range from Seamus Heaney, James Joyce, and Colum McCann, to Stacey Gregg and Claire Keegan, among others, which will offer tremendous occasion for critical thinking about the intersections of identity, nationhood, class, gender, and power in Ireland and within the global context.

3.00 credits. College of Arts and Sciences Core Seminar. Counts toward the Irish Studies Minor.

This class will consider what it means to come of age—to grow up—in Ireland. As we track how characters mature and fail to mature, how readers are treated like innocent children and all-knowing adults, how Irish settings and histories shape characters’ trajectory of growth, we will ask big questions about constructions of childhood and adulthood, literature and place, gender, and development as a social, historical and economic process. We will read short stories and novels by Maria Edgeworth, Kate O’Brien, James Joyce, Edna O’Brien; poetry by Eavan Boland and Seamus Heaney, and Brian Friel’s play, Translations. This class is a writing intensive course, and will teach strategies for making interesting, convincing, and unified arguments about literary texts.

3.00 credits. College of Arts and Sciences Core Seminar. Counts toward the Irish Studies Minor.
We will read classic Irish epics, vision tales, gothic stories, and poems about Irish rebellion. A main goal is to study the changes in Irish literature from its early medieval origins to the modern period in the nineteenth century. We begin with the Old Irish saga *Táin Bó Cuailnge* (Cattle Raid of Cooley) and the satiric middle Irish vision text, *Aislinge Meic Conglinne*. Readings follow through selections of bardic poetry that survived colonial incursions and the collapse of Gaelic social order in the seventeenth century. Two eighteenth century Irish language works, *Caoineadh Airt Uí Laoghaire* (Lament for Art Ó Laoghaire) by Eileen O’Connell and *Cúirt An Mheán Oíche* (The Midnight Court) by Brian Merriman, are read alongside works by Anglo-Irish authors Jonathan Swift and Oliver Goldsmith, with an eye toward understanding conflicts between Gaelic and Anglo cultures in Ireland. In the last third of the course, we read works by cultural nationalist and gothic writers during the nineteenth-century when the Great Famine of 1845-50 occurred, including Maria Edgeworth, Thomas Moore, William Carleton, James Clarence Mangan, and Sheridan Le Fanu. We will read across genres and trace how Ireland has been imagined over time as twice-told tales, parodies, imperial critique, and ghost story.

**3.00 credits. Counts toward the Irish Studies Minor.**

*For English majors, this course can count for the Medieval portion of the English Literature pre-1800 area requirement*

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**ENG 3615  James Joyce  TR 1:00-2:15  Dr. Megan Quigley**

**Tackling James Joyce’s Ulysses**

What is Ulysses? It’s just a story about an advertising salesman wandering around Dublin one day in June 1904 (and worrying that his wife may be cheating on him). Or it’s the novel to end all novels, a novel that makes us wonder why we write novels, how we think in and through language, and the ways that we tell ourselves stories about our families, our communities, and our countries.
How do you read a big novel like Ulysses, the master novel that is always atop the greatest novel ever lists? Why is it so controversial? What approach should you take to best understand and to enjoy this novel?

This course will take many different approaches—using films, music, audio recordings, graphic novels, guidebooks, Joyce’s letters—as we learn to “read” Ulysses. Is it a story about immigration? Leopold Bloom is the son of a Hungarian Jewish emigrant and a Protestant Irishwoman who encounters the young brainy Stephen Dedalus. In Stephen, Bloom may find the son he lost and the connection to Ireland he always wanted. Or is it the story of a nation? We will learn about James Joyce’s life and the ways that Irish History and the Catholic church marked his epic of the modern Irish people. Or is it a story about music, the imagination, and love? We will consider the idea that Molly Bloom may be the actual hero of the novel, who responds yes even in the face of disillusionment and loss.

We will begin the course by reading two stories from Joyce’s Dubliners and the novel A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man in order to learn about some of the characters in Ulysses. We will then launch into Ulysses, taking the parallels to Homer’s Odyssey less as directing the plot than influencing the style of each chapter. Our course will include a field trip to the Rosenbach Library in downtown Philadelphia in order to see the Ulysses manuscript, a wonderful opportunity with the help of the Rosenbach curatorial staff. And at the end of our class, you will have read Ulysses, having found your own unique approach to understanding Joyce’s masterpiece.

3.00 credits. Counts toward the Irish Studies Minor

PHI 2990 Irish Thought and Philosophy MW 1:30-2:45
Dr. William Desmond

Ireland is well known for its poets and writers but what of its thinkers? In the past Ireland has also been called “the island of saints and scholars” but again what of its thinkers? Thomas Duddy’s recent book A History of Irish Thought (2002) offers us helpful resources to address this question. This course will explore some of the main thinkers in the Irish tradition. It will consider whether there is a distinctive style (or perhaps styles) of Irish thought, whether there is a plurality of traditions that yet exhibit distinctive marks. The relation of reason (science) and religion is a major concern in Irish tradition(s). So also is the importance of poetry for the Irish mind. Thinkers to be considered will include Scotus Eriugena, John Toland, George Berkeley, Edmund Burke. We will also look at the explorations of thought in some writers of literature, figures such as Jonathan Swift, James Joyce, William Butler Yeats, Samuel Beckett and Seamus Heaney. The course will conclude with
a consideration of some recent Irish thinkers in the 20th century, including Iris Murdoch, William Desmond, and Richard Kearney. Themes to be explored in selected texts include: (e)migrant thought; intimate/local knowing and universal reason; exile and home; the condition of “being between”; broken tradition(s); losing a language and finding a voice; the sacred and thought; Irish poetry and reflection; laughter/comedy and Irish thought.

**3.00 credits. Counts toward the Irish Studies Minor.**

**HIS 3216-001 Ireland Since 1800**  
TR 11:30-12:45  
Dr. Craig Bailey

The Making of Modern Ireland

Ireland is now a prosperous country. It has a buoyant economy, it is a player on the international stage, its cities are vibrant cultural centers, and its population is becoming increasingly cosmopolitan. But these are recent developments; even a generation ago the picture was not quite so rosy. This course charts the path of Irish history from its marginal place as one of the poorest countries on the fringe of Europe at the turn of the nineteenth century, to the rise of the “Celtic Tiger” in the 1990s. Among the major topics to be covered are the United Irishmen and the Act of Union, Catholic Emancipation, famine, migration, nationalism, women in Irish society, sectarianism, civil rights and the “troubles” of the last quarter of the 20th century.

**3.00 credits. Counts toward the Irish Studies Minor; fulfills the core Irish Studies requirement for History.**

**SOC 4000 Cultural Anthropology: Ireland & the Diaspora**  
12:30-1:20  
Dr. Dori Panzer

What is cultural identity and why does it matter? What does it mean to be “Irish,” “American,” or “other”? Who gets to choose the label? How and why? How do notions of nationhood & citizenship impact identity? What legacies of the past remain significant today? How do people of a Diaspora differ from the “home” country? Using an anthropological perspective, we will explore questions like these to better understand how humans make sense of their world and how they organize their lives. Our focus will be Ireland and its Diaspora, but we will sample research of other cultures as well.

**3.00 credits. Counts toward the Irish Studies Minor.**
For our calendar and information on The Abbey Theatre Summer Studio, our study abroad programs at the National University of Ireland, Galway see:

irishstudies.villanova.edu

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