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**VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY**  
**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES**

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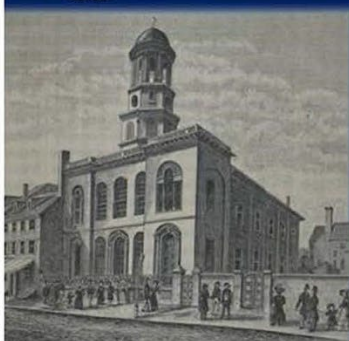
**CENTER FOR IRISH STUDIES**



**IRISH STUDIES**  
**COURSE**  
**DESCRIPTIONS**  
**SPRING 2023**



**CENTER FOR IRISH STUDIES**



### **Minor in Irish Studies**

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Villanova University hosts the Center for Irish Studies. The minor in Irish Studies is open to students from all colleges, and our interdisciplinary program features courses from seven departments. Irish Studies faculty research and teach through a range of disciplines. The Center facilitates courses in anthropology, art history, economics, history, language studies, literature, philosophy, political science, studio art and theatre.

Fifteen credits are required to complete the minor, of which six credits are core requirements: a 3-credit literature survey in English and a 3-credit survey in History. Students may structure and focus five of the many Irish Studies electives into a unified program of study that works with the student's overall goals. The Irish language (Gaelic) two-course sequence can fulfill the College of Arts and Sciences language requirement. Study-abroad courses taken in Ireland may be used for the minor.

### **Major in Irish Studies**

Irish Studies offers a major as a specialization in the Department of Global Interdisciplinary Studies (GIS). The 31-credit major in Irish Studies provides an interdisciplinary and comparative approach to deepen students' understanding of the history, culture, religion, politics, literature, languages, and society of Ireland and produce an in-depth research thesis. Students may sign up for the GIS major and choose their Irish Studies (GIST) specialization through the Department of Global Interdisciplinary Studies in 36 Garey Hall. The GIS Chair and the Director of Irish Studies will work closely with students to develop individual interests, abilities, and career goals while fulfilling their major.

**All courses listed here are 3.0 credit unless otherwise noted.**

## Spring 2023 Course Descriptions

### **CRM 4000-001: Crime & Punishment in Ireland**

**TR 4:00-5:15pm**

**Dr. Jill McCorkel**

This course will explore the complex and uneven evolution of criminal punishment in Ireland from 1916 through the current moment. It will introduce students to the Irish legal system and criminal law, with an emphasis on the intersection of law, politics, and social inequality. Students will explore the ways that crime and punishment are situated in Irish political culture and how they inform historical accounts of Irish Independence. The course will also examine Ireland's unique (and gendered) carceral institutions of containment with a focus on the "shame industrial complex" including mother baby homes and the Magdalen Laundries. Throughout, the course will offer comparative analysis of mass incarceration in Irish and American contexts, with emphasis on the ways that race, racism, and sectarianism contribute to differences and similarities across the two.

Attributes: Irish Studies

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### **ENG 1975-013: Ghostly Matters**

**MW 3:20-4:35pm**

**Dr. Mary L. Mullen**

In this class, we will read ghost stories in order to think about what haunting teaches us about history, culture, social structures, politics, performance, memory, literature. We'll focus on what kinds of knowledge ghosts provide as we think about slavery and its afterlives as well as colonialism in Ireland. We'll take up the sociologist Avery Gordon's claim that haunting produces a "something-to-be-done" by unsettling ordinary life, making the invisible become visible, introducing trouble. And, in the process, we'll think about our own stories of haunting—what we haunt and are haunted by. We'll read Toni Morrison, Dorothy Macardle, Marina Carr and many others. This class is a writing intensive course, and will teach strategies for making interesting, convincing, and unified arguments about literary texts and experiment with forms of creative writing.

Attributes: Irish Studies, Core Lit & Writing Sem

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### **ENG 1975-020: Narratives of Belonging in Contemporary Irish Literature**

**TR 8:30-9:45am**

**Dr. Jennifer Joyce**

Welcome! 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 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Irish writers continue to explore expressions of belonging, and in contrast, separation and isolation, in narratives throughout multiple genres.

Their experiences in Ireland and Northern Ireland include a wide cultural range; from the trauma of the politics and violence of the Troubles to the marginalization of women in Irish society and the arts, from Irish emigration to the influx of refugees immigrating to a traditionally homogenous Dublin, and from homophobia to the legal and religious ramifications of gender fraud and transgender identity. This English Core Literature and Writing Seminar (CLAWS) 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. Moving from traditional literature to the contemporary, this course will unpack a traditionally patriarchal literary canon and culture and will examine the ways to which the canon and Irish identity is being redefined today. 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, sexuality, religion, and power in Ireland and within the global context. This 3-credit course counts as an English Core Lit and Writing seminar, as well as an Irish Studies elective. Attributes: Irish Studies, Core Lit & Writing Sem, Peace and Justice, GWS

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**ENG 2012-001: After the Crash, Before the Collapse: Writing Short Stories Under the Influence of Irish Fiction**

**TR 8:30-9:45am**

**Heimbold Chair of Irish Studies: Mary O'Donoghue**

The short story is not a uniquely Irish form, but something in the water of late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> century Irish writing has irrigated short fiction to an extraordinary extent. This creative writing class will take for its influence the rich, varied and *changing* field of Irish short fiction as it prompts us—perhaps even urges us—to our own writing practices. We will study provocative questions raised by contemporary Irish short fiction: what does it mean to make art amid late capitalism, economic precarity, and climate crisis? how does short fiction address a post-Catholic condition? what does it mean to be a working-class writer, a queer writer, a migrant writer, a writer of color, a disabled writer? We will explore these pressing questions as they move us to make short fiction from the concerns we hold in the 2020s. We will also study the efflorescence of genres in Irish short fiction—from fabulism to surrealism to sci-fi—and take influence from those experimental forms to write our stories. We will read widely celebrated Irish short story practitioners, as well as new and necessary voices: Cathy Sweeney (*Modern Times*), Lauren Foley (*Polluted Sex*), Niamh Mulvey (*Hearts and Bones: Love Songs of Late Youth*) and Melatu Uche Okorie (*This Hostel Life*). And your narrative voice is to be considered both new and necessary to the field of short fiction; prepare to be listened to and heard.

Attributes: Creative Writing, Writing Intensive Requirement, Writing and Rhetoric, Irish Studies, GWS, Peace and Justice

**ENG 3680-001: Small, Rude Gestures: Modern Irish Literature and Translation**

**TR 11:30am-12:45pm**

**Heimbold Chair of Irish Studies: Mary O'Donoghue**

Irish-language poet Biddu Jenkinson once said that by writing exclusively in Irish and shunning English translation of her work she was making a “small rude gesture to those who think that everything can be harvested and stored without loss in an English-speaking world”. This course will examine 20<sup>th</sup> c. Irish-language literature, in the original language and in English translation. We will consider the long historical relationship between those two languages in light of the politics of translation. Our critical questions will include ethics in translation, the business of translation, and the role of the translator in a country where almost twenty years ago Irish became an official working language of the European Union and yet “Irish is spoken as a minority language throughout Ireland” (An Coimisinéir Teanga). Our readings will be bilingual: poetry, short fiction, and the novel. No facility in Irish is required, though you can expect to learn some! This class will be immersive and experiential, taught from the perspective of a literary translator; please expect to join her in the practice of translation.

Attributes: Irish Studies, Peace and Justice, GWS

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**HIS 2286-001: Irish-American Saga**

**MWF 12:50-1:40pm**

**Father Joe Ryan**

The scope of the course will reflect the main issues in Irish and Irish American history beginning in the twelfth century. Irish Americans were surprisingly once seen as a threat to mainstream society, despite their colonized, marginalized past. Today they represent an integral part of the American immigration narrative. The course will explore how Irish immigrants lacked power and faced structural inequalities that held them down. Once subjects of British oppression, the course will explore how the Irish transition from being discriminated, impoverished outsiders to social insiders in America by the late twentieth century. The course will also explore the role of Irish women in U.S. society, subjected to patriarchal power, Catholic culture, and as persistent social justice activists, as well as the repercussions of gendered, racial, and economic legacies of conflict. In these ways, the course will help students understand the complexity of the Irish American experience and the complicated power dynamics within. The course requirements will include full class participation, three examinations, and two papers; One a family history paper ten pages in length, and a five to seven page research paper.

Attributes: Irish Studies, Div 1

**IS 1112-001: Introductory Irish Language II**

**MWF 8:30-9:20am**

**Fulbright Language Instructor: Alswyn Hennessy Doyle**

-OR-

**IS 1112-002: Introductory Irish Language II**

**MWF 10:40-11:30am**

**Fulbright Language Instructor: Alswyn Hennessy Doyle**

Continuing groundwork in Irish (Gaelic), including oral proficiency, aural comprehension, and reading knowledge; for students with no prior knowledge of Irish. Supplementary language laboratory work and oral drills.

Attributes: Irish Studies

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**PSC 3340-001: Irish Conflict and Peace**

**TR 1:00-2:15pm**

**Dr. Cera Murtagh**

This course explores the dynamics of conflict and peace and the challenges societies face in transitioning onwards towards democracy. It examines these issues through the critical case of Ireland, a partitioned island which over the last century has experienced a war of independence, civil war and a violent conflict in the north of the island spanning three decades. Through the case of Ireland, this course aims to illuminate the fundamental dynamics of conflict and peace including: colonialism, nationalism, sectarianism, international relations, international peacebuilding, human rights, gender equality and social justice.

Attributes: Irish Studies, Peace and Justice, GWS

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