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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 2022**



**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 2022 Course Descriptions

## **CRM 4000-002: Crime & Punishment in Ireland**

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

**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 offer comparative analysis of mass incarceration in Irish and American contexts, with particular emphasis on the ways that race, racism, and sectarianism contribute to differences across the two.

Attributes: Irish Studies

## **ENG 1975: Irish Otherworlds**

**TR 10:00-11:15am**

**Dr. Joseph Lennon**

This seminar will explore representations of otherworlds in Irish literature. These works create worlds on the screen, stage, and page that are not always supernatural nor entirely realistic. Beginning with a medieval otherworld story, we will study how texts contrast realism with Gothic and Celtic modes, and pit everyday reality against extraordinary events. We will discuss otherworldly desire, fear of the other, artistic idealism, religious faith, supernatural fear, cultural diversity, and inexplicable violence. We begin with medieval stories of *Tír na n'Óg* and a smattering of faery lore. We then turn to the complex reality surrounding an faery murder case. Afterwards, we move to horror stories by Sheridan Le Fanu story and Oscar Wilde and then study the strange stages of Samuel Beckett and Conor MacPherson. We will end reading and watching folkloric and modern mermaids in Irish poetry and film. This course explores five genres (fiction, non-fiction, poetry, drama, and film) and samples Irish literature from the earliest texts to those written around the Famine in the mid-nineteenth century to the present. This course is also a writing intensive course, and we will pay much attention to stylistics, revision, and the writing process in general.

Attributes: Core Lit & Writing Sem, Irish Studies

## **ENG 3615-H01, James Joyce's Ulysses at 100! (Honors)**

**MW 1:30-2:45pm**

**Dr. Megan Quigley**

**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. At the centenary of this novel we'll ask ourselves: what has been the impact of *Ulysses* of this big novel since 1922?

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.

Attributes: Honors Seminar, Irish Studies, Writing Enriched Requirement

### **ENG 3689-001: Green and Black: Irish and African Literature and Culture**

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

**2022 Charles A. Heimbald, Jr. Chair of Irish Studies: Emma Dabiri**

This course studies the literature of the overlapping diasporas of Ireland and Africa. Nigerian-Irish writer, scholar, and BBC broadcaster, Emma Dabiri, the 2022 Heimbald Chair will guide students through the literature of these two historically disempowered groups, paying particular attention to the literary and cultural expressions about the systems of oppression and inequity. The course begins with an examination of the American novel *Our Nig: Sketches from the Life of a Free Black* (1859) by Harriot Wilson, whose parents were of Irish and African descent. The novel explores follows the difficult circumstances of characters born into systems of racial and gender marginalization in nineteenth-century Massachusetts. The course then moves into a comparative look at the literature of two cultural renaissances—the Harlem Renaissance and the Irish Revival of the early decades of the twentieth century. Comparing the complex expressions of identity, racial constructions, and power relations in these two cultural movements, students will develop skills to engage in diverse cultural and social contexts. The course will follow the trajectory of post-slavery and post-colonial cultural expressions and end with more recent works from Irish and African-diasporic writers, including Sally Rooney's *Beautiful World* with its critique of the capitalism.

Attributes: Africana Studies, Irish Studies, Diversity Requirement 1 (tentative)

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

**MWF 12:30-1:20pm**

**Fr. Joseph Ryan**

Come and celebrate your Irish heritage! Irish Americans were once seen as a threat to mainstream society, today they represent an integral part of the American story. More than 40 million Americans claim Irish descent and the culture of the Irish and Irish Americans have left an indelible mark on society. The scope of the course will reflect the main issues in Irish American history beginning in the seventeenth century, through the famine and mass immigration of the nineteenth century, to the present day. The course will also explore the complicated legacy of racial conflict between the Irish and African Americans. The course will help students understand the complexity of the Irish American experience. 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: Diversity Requirement 1, Irish Studies, Peace & Justice

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

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

**Fulbright Language Instructor: James O'Connell**

-OR-

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

**MWF 11:30am-12:20pm**

**Fulbright Language Instructor: James O'Connell**

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.