UNDERGRADUATE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SPRING 2018

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IRISHSTUDIES.VILLANOVA.EDU
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 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, studio art, art history, 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.

Irish Studies Major

Irish Studies offers a major as a specialization of a Global Interdisciplinary Studies (GIS) major. The major in Irish Studies provides an interdisciplinary and comparative approach to deepen students' understandings of the history, culture, religion, politics, literature, and society of Ireland. Students may sign up for the major and choose their Irish Studies specialization through the Department of Global Interdisciplinary Studies in 36 Garey Hall. The GIS Chair and the Program Director of Irish Studies will work closely with each student to develop their individual interests, abilities, and career goals while fulfilling the requirements for their major.
Spring 2018 Courses

IS 1112  Introductory Irish Language II  Fulbright Language Instructor

(Two Sections)

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MWF 1:30-2:20
TR 2:30-3:45

Groundwork in Irish (Gaelic), including oral proficiency, aural comprehension and reading knowledge; for students with one semester of Irish study completed. Supplementary language laboratory work and oral drills. Students should have completed IS 1111 or equivalent. 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.

SAR 3031  Irish Book Illuminations  Dr. Susan vonMedicus

This is your chance to learn the medieval Irish techniques of manuscript illumination and script and the history of the Golden Age of Ireland (650-800 CE) in an interdisciplinary course (History of Art and Studio Art and Irish Studies). Experiment with the quills, brushes, pigments, and other painting tools in a course that will be hands-on as well as historically based, with these two long-time scholars of Irish visual culture. Sign-up now!!! Class Limit: 15 students. First come, first served.

3.00 credits. Counts toward the Irish Studies Minor.
ENG 1975  Coming of Age in Ireland  Dr. Mary Mullen

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.

ENG 2500  Irish Revival  Dr. James Murphy

This course covers a variety of voices in Modern Irish Literature, one of the world’s great literatures. In effect, this is a “survey” course. Such an approach has the advantage of introducing you to a range of authors and to their historical/cultural context, but at the same time it can be frustrating in that we do not have the luxury of lingering for long, loving looks at our favorite writers. We will leave that for you to do in other Villanova courses, in graduate school or, most importantly, in the reading of Irish writers which will hopefully become a part of your world for the rest of your life. In the meantime, we will do the best we can to introduce you to a rich and varied set of voices in Modern Irish literature.

After an introduction on the implications of the term “Revival,” and indeed of the term “Irish” itself, we will focus on the work of Augusta Gregory, John Millington Synge, William Butler Yeats, James Joyce, and Sean O’Casey. Finally, to give us a taste of a more recent voice, we will close with the work of Seamus Heaney. This selection has the advantage of covering a range of genres -- poetry, drama, and fiction -- itself a tribute to wide ranging achievements of Irish writers.

3.00 credits. College of Arts and Sciences Core Seminar. Counts toward the Irish Studies Minor.
From W.B. Yeats onward, Irish writers have explored a distinctly modern problem. What did it mean to be Irish? A connection to native soil and ancient folkways? Or to the enduring sacramental vision of the Catholic Church? We shall read the works of Yeats, Joyce, Bowen, Corkery, and Denis Devlin to see how they deploy the ingenious complexity of modern art to answer and trouble these questions with force and beauty.

3.00 credits. Counts toward the Irish Studies Minor.
HIS 2286    Irish-American Saga    Fr. Joe 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 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.

3.00 credits. Counts toward the Irish Studies Minor.

GIS 4000    Cultural Anthropology: Ireland & the Diaspora    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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Villanova University Irish Studies Program

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