ENG 3690.02  New Irish Prose  
Michael McCormack  
2019 Heimbold Chair  
TR 2:30-3:45

The last decade has seen an upsurge in Irish prose writing. New voices and bold experiments in both the novel and short story form have breathed new life into the proud tradition of Irish fiction. At the same time, personal explorations and testimonies in creative non-fiction essays and autobiography have made striking contributions to the social and political debates of the age. This course introduces some of those new voices and explores their work against the background of an Ireland which has undergone radical change over the past ten years. Texts will include *The Earlie King and the Kid in Yellow* by Danny Denton (Novel), *Conversations with Friends* by Sally Rooney (Novel), *Solar Bones* by Mike McCormack (Novel), *Pond* by Claire Louise Bennett (Novel/Short Stories), *Dinosaurs on Other Planets* by Danielle McLaughlin (Short Stories), *Notes to Self* by Emilie Pine (Personal Essays), and *The Cow Book* by John O Connell (Autobiography / Personal Essay).
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’ understandings 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.

**Minor in Irish Studies**

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>IS 2222</td>
<td>Topics: Irish Language</td>
<td>Kerron O’Luain</td>
<td>MWF 9:30-10:20</td>
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This course is open to any students who have completed Introductory Irish (prerequisite: IS 1112) or its equivalent, as well as students who have completed IS 1121. Review of grammar and vocabulary in Irish (Gaelic). Supplementary cultural study, language laboratory, and conversation comprehension.

*Prerequisite: IS 1112, equivalent or permission of instructor.*
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 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 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.

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**IS 1112  Introductory Irish Language II**  
Kerron O’Luain  
Fulbright Language Instructor  
(Two Sections)  
MWF 8:30-9:20  
TR 4:30-5:15  
-Or-  
MWF 1:30-2:20  
TR 1:20-2:15

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.

**4.00 credits, includes labs on Thursdays.**

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**PSC 3340  Irish Politics**  
Dr. Cera Murtagh  
MWF 12:30-1:20

Irish Politics explores the contemporary politics of Ireland in critical perspective. It charts the evolution of Irish politics and society from the foundation of the Irish Free State in 1922, to the development of the political system, the emergence of the Northern Ireland conflict and the transformation of British-Irish relations. The course explores the fundamental social, political, cultural and economic changes Ireland has undergone in that time, through topics including gender and sexuality, the politics of language, religion and contemporary social movements. Taking a comparative perspective, the course critically assesses Ireland’s place within the European Union and the international political system, as well as the future opportunities and challenges that may face the country in a post-Brexit landscape.

Irish Politics offers students the opportunity to engage with the distinctive and critical case of Ireland. Through this case, it also opens up insights into the fundamental concepts and dynamics of politics and international relations; from political parties to nationalism, peace and conflict and social justice. In this way, it provides students with valuable analytical lenses with which to understand the politics of Ireland and beyond.

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**SAR 3031  The Making of Irish Illuminated Manuscripts**  
Dr. Tina Waldeier Bizzarro  
Susan Kelly von Medicus  
W 6:10-8:50

Students will investigate the history and practice of medieval book Illumination from Ireland’s Golden Age (650-800) as well as create illuminated pages, using traditional Irish medieval materials. By integrating the study of Irish medieval visual culture with the artistic practice of the monks/scribes, students will come to an understanding of these illuminated pages—their meaning, spirituality, and cultural legacy. Fine Arts attribute.
Writing through Conflict explores the important role of creative writing in confronting, protesting, and engaging with socio-political conflicts. The goals of this course are to study the work of established American, Irish, and other international authors who focus their creative eye on socio-political conflicts in their many forms, from poverty and racism to war and atrocity, and use these models as guides for the student’s own original creative writing. Students will examine the lens through which established writers view these conflicts, will analyze the elements of craft employed by those authors and poets, and use similar techniques in their own creative writing. Among the writers we will study are: Seamus Heaney, Owen McCafferty, Claudia Rankine, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Yiyun Li, and Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

Time in class will be divided between the discussion of readings, lessons concerning craft, directed writing exercises, and the workshopping of student work. This is a participatory experience. Regular attendance and active engagement is required.

Co-requisite Course (1 credit): ENG 2992 English Topics Abroad

As part of this course, students will have the opportunity to travel to Belfast, Ireland over Villanova’s Spring Break to participate in an intensive creative writing conference. The students will have the opportunity to participate in writing workshops, readings, and symposiums at Queens University. Co-sponsored by Villanova’s Program in Creative Writing and the Center for Irish Studies, and in conjunction with the Seamus Heaney Center at Queens University, this exchange will have a particular focus on exploring the legacy of the Troubles in Northern Ireland. Over seven days, students will engage in writing workshops with Irish and American authors, take literary tours in Belfast, attend readings and writing symposiums in the evenings, and share work in a student showcase on the final night. 1.0 credit

*There is a cost associated with the travel to Belfast. Please contact Professor Alan Drew (alan.drew@villanova.edu) for details and for scholarship information.

Fairies and selkies, Celtic heroes, warrior queens and lady pirates, occupation and rebellion, famine and emigration, the Troubles, the Celtic Tiger, economic renewal – these are the stories of Ireland. This course will explore Irish culture, narrative, and history through the lens of 20th and 21st century Irish film. Our focus will be on iconic Irish films, and on next wave Irish cinema – recent works by Irish women writers and directors, film shorts, and animated shorts. Discussion topics will include Irish mythology and folklore; British colonialism, Irish nationalism and rebellion; Unionism and the struggle for peace and civil rights in Northern Ireland; Irish music and art; emigration; the roles and rights of women in Irish society. In addition to studying the films, we will read seminal works of Irish literature (by James Joyce, Eavan Boland, W.B. Yeats and others) that complement the sensibility of the films. Students will develop a variety of writing projects, including reflections, analytical arguments, and research papers. We will supplement the films and literary texts with background readings in film studies, Irish mythology, and history.

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.