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.
Fall 2020 Course Descriptions

**ENG 1975: Coming of Age in Ireland**  
TR 1:00pm – 2:15pm  
Dr. Mary L. 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 Melatu Uche Okorie, Anna Burns, and Tana French; poetry by Eavan Boland, Seamus Heaney, Paula Meehan, and W. B. Yeats, and personal essays/memoirs by Kate O'Brien, Emilie Pine, Sinead Gleeson, Emma Dabari and others. This class is a writing intensive course, and will teach strategies for making interesting, convincing, and unified arguments about literary texts.

**ENG 3580: Irish Literature: Gender and History**  
TR 2:30pm – 3:45pm  
Dr. Mary L. Mullen

How does gender shape Irish writing? And how does Irish writing help us better understand gender? In this class, we will read nineteenth-century Irish and Anglo-Irish literature alongside feminist, queer, and gender theory to answer these questions. We will consider why Ireland is represented as a woman and what effects the trope of ‘Mother Ireland’ has on women’s experiences; the gendered accounts of the Irish Famine; the relationship between the family, the nation, the church, and the state in Ireland; the intersections between gender and colonialism; and queer performance. We will cover work by Maria Edgeworth, Anna Maria Hall, Lady Gregory & W. B. Yeats, Emily Lawless, George Moore, and Oscar Wilde, among others.
**ENG 3181: Irish Epics, Visions & Hauntings**
TR 4:00pm – 5:15pm
Dr. Joseph Lennon

In this class we read great Irish epics, vision tales, gothic stories of hauntings, and ballads of rebellion. 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 cultural appropriation and colonial conflicts between Gaelic and Anglo cultures in Ireland. The course ends with a sampling of national and gothic tales by Maria Edgeworth, James Clarence Mangan, and Sheridan Le Fanu.

**ENG 3680: Narratives of Northern Ireland**
TR 8:30am – 9:45am
Dr. Jennifer Joyce

The Troubles in Northern Ireland, beginning in the late 1960s and lasting almost thirty years, claimed more than 3,500 lives. The political conflict and violence between unionists—mainly Protestant, who want Northern Ireland to remain British—and nationalists—primarily Catholic, who favor the idea of an Irish state encompassing the island as a whole—touched nearly every aspect of life in Northern Ireland. This seminar will examine contemporary literary responses to the atrocities of these recent Troubles in Northern Ireland and look at the various responses to peace and ongoing reconciliation. Late twentieth and early twenty-first century voices will represent a range of varied backgrounds who are considered astute observers of the political atmosphere; writers including but not limited to Seamus Deane, Colette Bryce, Seamus Heaney, Sinead Gleeson, and Owen McCafferty. By critically reading these works, we will draw conclusions about the ways in which conflict and peace ultimately shape community, and in doing so, we will come to a fuller understanding of Irish identity.

**Counts toward the Irish Studies minor.**
HIS 3216: Ireland Since 1880  
TR 2:30pm – 3:45pm  
Dr. Craig Bailey

This course provides students with an introduction to Irish history, with a particular focus on the development of Irish history and identities from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century, an important and formative period which is generally referred to as “Ireland under the Union”. Some of the specific events and issues we will consider include: the uprisings of 1798, the Act of Union and Ireland’s relationship to Great Britain, Catholic Emancipation, Famine, Republicanism, Separatism, Unionism and Nationalism. In addition, members of the class will have the opportunity to explore in greater depth a subject of their choice relating to Irish history, in the form of a final paper.

IS 1111: Introductory Irish Language I  
MWF 8:30am - 9:20am / R 8:30am - 9:45am  
OR  
MWF 12:30pm - 1:20pm / R 4:00pm – 5:15pm  
(Two Sections)  
Fulbright Language Instructor

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 111 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.

PHI 2470: Irish Thought and Literature  
M 6:10pm – 8:50pm  
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, Patrick Kavanagh and Seamus Heaney. Some time will also be given to a poet considered to be the major modernist writing in the Irish language: Séan Ó Riordáin. The course will conclude with a consideration of some recent Irish thinkers in the 20th century, including Iris Murdoch, William Desmond, and Richard Kearney.

PSC 4275: Gender, War and Peace
MW 3:00 pm – 4:15 pm
Dr. Cera Murtagh

In this course students will learn about global conflict and peace through the lens of gender. The course will explore the theoretical intersection of gender, conflict and peace, before examining the impact of war on women, men and non-binary genders, their respective roles in peace processes, and, finally, in post-conflict democracy. The course will confront contemporary topics such as masculinity and war, sexual and gender-based violence, post-conflict democratization and LGBT politics. It will take a comparative approach with a particular focus on the critical case study of Northern Ireland.