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 will receive Irish Studies credit/attributes are 3.0 credit, unless otherwise noted.
AAH 3007: The Art of Ireland  
T TR from 6:00pm - 7:15pm  
Dr. Tina Bizzarro

This course seeks to stimulate an interest in and love of the visual culture of Ireland. This survey will run from the Stone Age through the Middle Ages, including: the megalithic dolmens and passage graves of Co. Meath, metal- and stone-work as well as ring- and hill-forts of the Bronze and Iron Ages, the Golden Age of manuscript illumination and metalwork of the Early Christian period, and the later medieval churches and monasteries of the 11th and 12th centuries. We will “visit” and study monuments such as the medieval monasteries at Glendalough and Skellig Michael, the Books of Kells, Durrow, and Lindisfarne, Newgrange Passage Grave, round towers, high crosses, and much, much more. Join us!

Additional attribute: Fine Arts Requirement

COM 3390-002: Constructing the Irish Nation Through Film  
W from 4:30pm – 7:30pm  
Heimbold Chair: Maurice Fitzpatrick

This course explores the considerable role that filmmakers have played in constructing and expressing Irish nationhood. We examine films that have explicitly confronted the complexity of nationhood in Ireland, North and South. In this course, we encounter the richness of the Irish literary tradition alongside the contemporaneity of Ireland’s cinematic tradition through readings of fiction and drama that have been adapted as films. Together we will watch films (in part or in whole) that form a stimulating cross-section of the Irish film tradition. The course schedule details required and recommended reading that will ensure that critical awareness of the traditions being depicted are discussed and understood. Particular attention is given to the ways in which filmmakers have portrayed place—such as rural parts of the West of Ireland or politicised parts of the North of Ireland. We will discuss the connections between environment and filmmakers’ consciousness, aesthetic approach to their practice and preoccupations.

Additional attribute: Fine Arts Requirement
ENG 1975: Narratives of Belonging in Contemporary Irish Literature  
T TR 4:00pm - 5:15pm  
Dr. Jennifer A. Joyce

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 20th and 21st Century, Irish writers continue to explore expressions of belonging, and in contrast, separation and isolation, in narratives throughout multiple genres. This English Core Literature and Writing Seminar 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. 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, and power in Ireland and within the global context. This 3-credit course counts as an English CLAWS and as an Irish Studies elective as well.

Additional attribute: Core Lit & Writing Seminar

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ENG 1975: Coming of Age in Ireland  
T TR from 1:00pm - 2:15pm  
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 Melatu Uche Okorie, George Moore, James Joyce, Anne Enright, and Anna Burns; poetry by Eavan Boland, Seamus Heaney 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.

Additional attribute: Core Lit & Writing Seminar
HIS 2286: Irish-American Saga  
MWF from 12:30pm – 1:20pm  
Dr. 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 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.

Additional attributes: Diversity Requirement 1, Irish Studies, Peace & Justice

HIS 3216: Ireland Since 1800  
T TR from 11:30am - 12:45pm  
Dr. Craig Bailey

This course focuses on the development of Irish identities from the late eighteenth to the early twentieth century, and considers their meanings and impacts, then and now. Some of the specific events and issues we will consider include: the uprisings of 1798, the Act of Union, Catholic Emancipation, Famine, Landholding, Fenianism, Home Rule, Unionism and Nationalism. In addition, members of the class will have the opportunity to explore in greater depth a subject relating to Irish history, in the form of a final paper.

IS 1112-001: Introductory Irish Language II  
MWF from 8:30am – 9:20am  
TR from 1:00pm – 2:15pm  
Fulbright Language Instructor: Alene O’Malley

-OR-
IS 1112-002: Introductory Irish Language II
MWF from 1:30pm - 2:20pm
TR from 4:00pm - 5:15pm
Fulbright Language Instructor: Alene O’Malley

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.

IS 2222: Irish Language
MWF from 9:30am - 10:20am
Fulbright Language Instructor: Alene O’Malley

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.

PSC 3340: Irish Conflict and Peace
MWF from 11:30am - 12:20pm
Dr. Cera Murtagh

This course will explore the dynamics of conflict and peace and the challenges societies face in transitioning onwards towards democracy, through the critical case of Ireland. In so doing, it will chart the immense social, political, cultural and economic change that Ireland has undergone in this transition, not least in the sphere of gender. It will critically assess the current and future challenges facing the island, including the planned withdrawal of the United Kingdom from the European Union and its implications for the border between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic. The course will also consider Ireland’s external relations, including with the UK, the EU and the United States, and place Ireland in comparative perspective with other countries.

Additional attribute: Gender and Women’s Studies, Irish Studies, Peace & Justice
**LST 7303-001: Irish and British Films in Political Contexts**  
* M from 5:20pm – 7:20pm  
* Heimbold Chair: Maurice Fitzpatrick

In the backdrop of the United Kingdom’s bid to withdraw from the European Union, this course on Irish and British films in political contexts locates the Anglo-Irish relationship within the broader narrative of the British retreat from its global empire, and the growth in importance of the European Union and the Irish-American influence for Ireland. This course probes the British-Irish conflict in historical and political terms through both documentary and drama films. The contested space of Northern Ireland, a place divided between people who identify as Irish and those who wish to retain the political and cultural link with the UK, is a particular focus. These relationships are now faced with the possibility of dramatic change in light of Brexit. Being an Irish filmmaker myself—I have made three documentaries and written two books on Northern Ireland—this course incorporates my own work as well.