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VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES

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For our calendar and information on our study abroad  
programs see: [irishstudies.villanova.edu](http://irishstudies.villanova.edu)

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Villanova University Irish Studies Program

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[@IrishStudiesVU](https://twitter.com/IrishStudiesVU)

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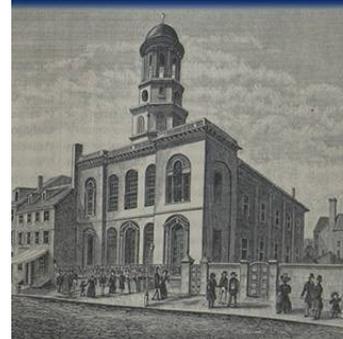
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IRISH STUDIES  
COURSE  
DESCRIPTIONS  
FALL 2018





## 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 also may be used to complete the minor.

### Irish Studies Major

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 each student to develop their individual interests, abilities, and career goals while fulfilling the requirements for their major.

PHI 2990 Irish Literature and Thought Dr. William Desmond  
MW 1:30 pm-2:45pm

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. The course will conclude with a consideration of some recent Irish thinkers in the 20th century, including Iris Murdoch, William Desmond, and Richard Kearney. Themes to be explored in selected texts include: (e)migrant thought; intimate/local knowing and universal reason; exile and home; broken tradition(s); and the sacred and thought.

**3.00 credits. Counts toward the Irish Studies Minor.**

**LST 7303-001 Narratives of Northern Ireland Dr. Jennifer Joyce  
M 5:20pm-7:20pm**

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, Deirdre Madden, Seamus Heaney, Colette Bryce, 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.

**3.00 credits. This graduate-student course will count toward the Peace and Justice certificate.**

**IS 1121 Intermediate Irish Language Fulbright  
Language Instructor  
MWF 10:30-11:20**

Review of grammar and vocabulary in Irish (Gaelic). Recitations, readings and oral drills. Supplementary language laboratory work. Supplementary language laboratory work and oral drills. Prerequisites: IS 1111 and 1112 or equivalent or permission of instructor Taught by a Fulbright language instructor from Ireland.

**4.00 credits. Counts toward the Irish Studies Minor**

**ENG 1975 Contemporary Irish Literature Dr. Jennifer Joyce  
T TR 11:30am-12:45pm**

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.

**3.00 credits. College of Arts and Sciences Core Seminar. Counts toward the Irish Studies Minor.**

**GIS 5021-001 Networks of Revolution: Irish, Indian, and Russian Revolutionaries in London Dr. Joseph Lennon TR 1:00pm-2:15pm**

Reading literary and autobiographical accounts, this team-taught course will map the networks of revolutionaries in late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century London. At the height of the British Empire, London became a hub for activists from a range of social justice movements, including Russian revolutionaries, women's suffragists, trades union leaders, and nationalists from Ireland, India, South Africa, and Egypt. Against a backdrop of political agitation, we will trace the emergence of the political prisoner category and various passive resistance strategies, including the boycott, the hunger strike, and a range of publicity stunts or "outrages." Within the pages of the periodicals such as *Free Russia* and *Votes for Women* and by writers such as those by Joseph Conrad, Peter Kropotkin, George Bernard Shaw, Sylvia Pankhurst, Jane Elgee, Leo Deutsch, W.B. Yeats, Bankim Chatterjee, Oscar Wilde, Padraic O'Conaire, and Vera Figner, debates between strategies of violence and non-violence were rehearsed and staged. As a backdrop, we will read historical accounts, theories of network analysis, and contemporary analyses of power by Annie Besant, Karl Marx, Roger Casement, and Mohandas Gandhi, all one-time residents of London in this age of foment.

**3.00 credits. Counts toward the Irish Studies Minor.**  
**Attributes: GIST, GRAS, HIS, ENG, IS, RAS**

**HIS 3216-001 Ireland Since 1800 Dr. Craig Bailey TR 2:30pm-3:45pm**

This course focuses on nineteenth-century Ireland. We will explore the construction and significance of historical narratives, and examine the politically charged meanings of Irish identity that emerged in this period, and still resonate today. We will dedicate several class periods in the first weeks of the semester to study Ireland in the early modern period (1500-1800), in order to develop the necessary context for understanding principal events and issues that shaped Irish society and identity during the "long nineteenth century", which include: 1798, the Act of Union, Catholic Emancipation, Famine, Landholding, Fenianism, Home Rule and various forms of Nationalism. In the form of a final paper, members of the class will have the opportunity to explore early twentieth-century Ireland and to assess the interrelated events of the Easter Rising, the War of Independence (once called the Anglo-Irish War) and the Irish Civil War within the context of what we have learned throughout the course.

**3.00 credits. Counts toward the Irish Studies Minor; fulfills the core Irish Studies requirement for History.**

**IS 1111 Introductory Irish Language I Fulbright Language Instructor (Two Sections)**

**MWF 8:30am-9:20am TR 8:30am-9:45am**

**-OR- MWF 1:30pm-2:20pm TR 2:30pm-3:45pm**

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 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.**