

Carleton University  
Fall 2014 / Winter 2015  
Department of English

ENGL 2908: *Celtic Literatures*  
The Republic and the North in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Irish Literature  
Tuesdays and Thursdays 11:35 – 12:55  
Mackenzie Building 4332

Instructor: Steven McLeod  
Office: 1905 Dunton  
Email: [smcleod@connect.carleton.ca](mailto:smcleod@connect.carleton.ca) or via cuLearn

### Course description

During this course we will read and discuss selected plays, novels, poetry, and short stories produced in and about Ireland's most spirited and *troubled* periods; namely, the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century in today's Republic of Ireland and the late 20<sup>th</sup> century in Northern Ireland. In the contexts of the Irish Literary Revival, the Irish War of Independence and Civil War, and the Troubles in Northern Ireland, we will explore the politics and poetics of colonization, nationalism, religion, and art in Ireland during the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### Readings (to acquire)

- J.M. Synge, *Playboy of the Western World*
- James Joyce, *Dubliners*, *Ulysses* (selections)
- Sean O'Casey, *Juno and the Paycock*
- Brian Friel, *Translations*
- Bernard MacLaverty, *Cal*
- Patrick McCabe, *Breakfast on Pluto*
- Seamus Deane, *Reading in the Dark*

### Readings (available via cuLearn)

- W.B. Yeats (selections of poetry)
- Maeve McGuckian (selections of poetry)
- Seamus Heaney (selections of poetry)
- Roddy Doyle (short stories)

### Evaluation

Attendance	10%
Participation	10%
Midterm test	15%
First essay (3-4 pages)	15%
Second essay (8-10 pages)	25%

Final Exam

25%

Essays are to be written in MLA format. The essay grading rubric will be explained when the essay assignments are handed out. From the Faculty Grading Guidelines: "Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean."

## **POLICIES AND PROCEDURES:**

### **Attendance (10%) and participation (10%)**

Attendance is required and will be recorded. You can miss two classes; however, each additional absence will result in 2 points being deducted from your attendance mark. Your participation mark will reflect the quality of your contributions to class/online discussions (cuLearn) as well as the average of your best 3 quiz results. These quizzes should require little preparation: they designed to encourage you to read the assignment material. Take good notes, as materials discussed in class will appear on your test and exam.

### **Phones and laptops**

Please switch your cell phones to silent mode. Laptops are welcome in the class but please refrain from excessively using them for anything other than taking notes so as not to distract your nearby peers.

### **Submission of assignments**

Essays are due at the beginning of class on the due date. Late papers lose 1% per day (of the course total 100%), and may receive little or no written commentary. If one week has passed since the due date they will not be graded. Bring late work to the English department head office on the 18th floor of Dunton Tower to have it date stamped. Back up all your work and keep a spare hard copy.

### **Extensions**

If you need an extension please let me know as early as possible.

### **Plagiarism**

This is a serious matter. If you plagiarize ("presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own"), you will face the Dean and the University Senate, which I imagine would be terrifying. To avoid plagiarism, provide citations for all ideas, arguments, and statements taken from someone else. These must be clearly marked as distinct from your own work. For further guidance, please consult with me and for further clarification on Carleton's policies regarding plagiarism and other things of that nature, you can consult the following documentation:

<http://www2.carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity>.

### **Requests for Academic Accommodations**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

### **Pregnancy obligation**

Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide.

### **Religious obligation**

Write to me with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the Student Guide.

### **Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities**

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

## **Course Schedule**

### *September*

4: Historical and mythical contexts of the Irish Literary Revival

9: Yeats intro and poems (cuLearn):

- “The Song of Wandering Aengus” (*The Wind Among the Reeds* 1899)
- “September 1913” (*Responsibilities* 1914)
- “The Fisherman” (*The Wild Swans at Coole* 1917)
- “Easter 1916” (*Michael Robartes and the Dancer* 1921)
- “Amongst School Children” (*The Dial* 1927)

11: Yeats cont’d

16: Synge and *The Playboy of the Western World*.

- **Quiz #1**
- Essay topics and Rubric.

18: Synge *The Playboy of the Western World*.

23: Joyce, James. “Araby” *Dubliners*.

25: Joyce, James. “The Dead” from *Dubliners*.

30: Joyce, James. “Telemachus” and “Penelope” from *Ulysses*.

- **Essay #1 due.**

### October

- 2: O'Casey, Sean. *Juno and the Paycock*.
- 7: O'Casey, Sean. *Juno and the Paycock*.
- 9: Friel, Brian. *Translations*.
  - Quiz #2
- 14: Friel, Brian. *Translations*.
- 16: Heaney, Seamus (Poems TBA)
- 21: McGuckian, Maeve (Poems TBA)
- 23: Mid-Term Exam
- 28: Fall Break!
- 30: Fall Break!

### November

- 4: MacLaverty, Bernard. *Cal*.
- 6: MacLaverty, Bernard. *Cal*.
- 11: Doyle, Roddy. "The Dinner" (cuLearn)
- 13: McCabe, Patrick. *Breakfast on Pluto*.
  - Quiz #3
- 18: McCabe, Patrick. *Breakfast on Pluto*.
  - Essay topics and Rubric.
- 20: Neil Jordan's *Breakfast on Pluto*.
- 25: Deane, Seamus. *Reading in the Dark*.
- 27: Deane, Seamus. *Reading in the Dark*.
  - Quiz #4.

### December

- 2: Deane, Seamus. *Reading in the Dark*.
- 4: Essay #2 due. Wrapping up / Exam Review