

Carleton University  
Winter 2020  
Department of English

**ENGL 2908A: Celtic Literatures**  
**Theme: Irish Literature and British Colonialism**

Precludes additional credit for ENGL 2602 and ENGL 2606 (no longer offered).  
Prerequisite(s): second-year standing or permission of the department.

Mon/Wed 2:35-3:55  
Location: SA 402  
*please check location on Carleton Central*

Instructor: Sarah Brouillette  
Email: sarah\_brouillette@carleton.ca  
Office: DT 1904  
Office Hours: Thurs 11:30-12:30 or by appointment

This course surveys a key influence on Irish literature in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries: Ireland's struggle for independence from Britain, and its historical legacies. Key topics will include: the writer's role in political struggle; the relationship between literature and revolutionary violence; and social normativity, especially gender and compulsory heterosexuality. It is a lecture course – about 70% lecture, 30% discussion.

**Texts to Purchase** (at Haven Books, 43 Seneca Street):

- J.M. Synge, *The Playboy of the Western World*
- Brian Friel, *Translations*
- Anne Devlin, *Ourselves Alone*
- Bernard MacLaverty, *Cal*
- Martin MacDonagh, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*
- Anna Burns, *Milkman*

\*\*\* Works not listed here will be available via cuLearn.

**Evaluation:**

Midterm test	20%
First essay (2-3 pages)	20%
Second essay (4-5 pages)	25%
Final Exam	35%

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.

### **Learning outcomes:**

- Develop knowledge of twentieth and twenty-first century Irish literature
- Develop knowledge of Irish political history
- Develop knowledge of British colonialism
- Development sophisticated ways of discussing how literature relates to politics
- Develop skills in expository, thesis-based essay writing
- Develop confidence in reading literature and participation in group discussion of literature
- Develop skills in “close reading” of literary texts

### **COURSE CONTRACT //// If you take this class, you are agreeing to:**

1. Attend all classes, arrive on time, and stay for the entire class.
2. Read the material assigned for the day, have it with you in class, and be prepared to discuss it thoughtfully.
3. Take notes during lectures and discussions (the mid-term and final exams will be based on these).
4. Turn off phones and other electronic equipment or you will be asked to leave.
5. Use your laptop only to take lecture notes or you will be asked to leave.
6. Be respectful of those around you and don't do anything distracting or annoying during lecture. This includes internet stuff, texting, and chatting / laughing with the person beside you.
7. Hand in assignments on the due date or lose 1% per day (of the course total 100%) and receive scant written commentary.
8. Ask for extensions at least four days before the due date, but keep in mind that being busy with other work is poor grounds for an extension.

### **PLAGIARISM**

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a form of intellectual theft. It is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include failure of the assignment, failure of the entire course, or suspension from a program. For more information please go to: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

## **Requests for Academic Accommodation**

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

### **Pregnancy obligation**

Please contact your instructor 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, visit the Equity Services website: <https://carleton.ca/equity/contact/form-pregnancy-accommodation/>

### **Religious obligation**

Please contact your instructor 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, visit the Equity Services website: <https://carleton.ca/equity/focus/discrimination-harassment/religious-spiritual-observances/>

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

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC 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 your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. For more details, visit the Paul Menton Centre Website: [carleton.ca/pmc](http://carleton.ca/pmc)

### **Survivors of Sexual Violence**

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: <https://carleton.ca/equity/focus/sexual-violence-prevention-survivor-support/>

### **Accommodation for Student Activities**

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor 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.  
<https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

## Schedule

01.06: Introduction to the course  
01.08: W.B. Yeats, "Easter, 1916"  
01.13: J.M. Synge, *The Playboy of the Western World*  
01.15: J.M. Synge, *The Playboy of the Western World*  
01.20: Writing About Literature Workshop  
01.22: James Joyce, *Dubliners*; focus on "A Painful Case"  
01.27: James Joyce, *Dubliners*; focus on "The Dead"  
01.29: James Joyce, *Dubliners*; focus on "The Dead" \* Essay #1 Due  
02.03: Brian Friel, *Translations*  
02.05: Brian Friel, *Translations*  
02.10: Brian Friel, *Translations*  
02.12: Mid-term Exam  
02.24: Anne Devlin, *Ourselves Alone*  
02.26: Anne Devlin, *Ourselves Alone*  
03.02: Ciaran Carson, selected poems (webCT)  
03.04: Seamus Heaney, "Feelings into Words," and selected poems (webCT)  
03.09: Bernard MacLaverty, *Cal*  
03.11: Bernard MacLaverty, *Cal*  
03.16: Bernard MacLaverty, *Cal* \* Essay #2 Due  
03.18: Martin MacDonagh, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*  
03.23: Martin MacDonagh, *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*  
03.25: Anna Burns, *Milkman*  
03.30: Anna Burns, *Milkman*  
04.01: Anna Burns, *Milkman*  
04.06: Course overview and final exam prep