SS115 Representing Ireland: Literature and Film

3 Semester Credits/6 ECTS Credits

COURSE OBJECTIVE:

The aim of this course is to analyze the varied ways in which ‘Ireland’ and ‘Irishness’ have been represented in a range of English-language media, including fiction, poetry, drama and film. The course will be structured around particular themes such as the representation of the west of Ireland, the contrast between city and country, the politics of theatre, the representation of gender identity, and the meaning of Irish nationality. We will be reading some of the major works by Irish writers such as W.B. Yeats and James Joyce, but we will also look at important lesser-known figures like Liam O’Flaherty and Eavan Boland. We will also view and discuss a number of films from both American and Irish filmmakers.

COURSE OUTLINE:

Week 1  Introductory Lecture
         W.B. Yeats I and II
         Representing the Aran Islands

Week 2  Irish Cinema I
         James Joyce I and II
         Irish Theatre I

Week 3  Irish Theatre II and III
         Women and the Irish Literary Tradition

Week 4  Contemporary Irish Fiction
         Irish Cinema II and III
         Contemporary Irish Poetry

COURSE TEXTS:

1. J. Harrington (ed.): Modern Irish Drama (Norton paperbacks)
2. J. Joyce: Dubliners (Penguin paperbacks)
3. W.B. Yeats: Selected Poetry (Penguin paperbacks)
4. Patrick McCabe: The Butcher Boy

Additional material will be supplied as handouts. Films will be available for viewing in the University Library. Films to be viewed will include The Quiet Man (1952), The Butcher Boy (1992), The Dead (1987), Michael Collins (1996) and Kisses (2006).

SELECTED LIBRARY READING:

Seamus Deane, A Short History of Irish Literature
Declan Kiberd, Inventing Ireland
David Cairns and Shaun Richards, Writing Ireland
Lionel Pilkington, Theatre and the State in 20th Century Ireland
G. J. Watson, Irish Identity and the Literary Revival
Lance Pettitt, Screening Ireland
Kevin Rockett, John Hill and Luke Gibbons, Cinema and Ireland
Martin McLoone, Irish Film: The Emergence of a Contemporary Cinema

REQUIREMENTS FOR CREDITS:

1. Attendance and participation in all regularly scheduled lectures and seminars.
2. One essay of 1,500 words on a subject assigned by the Course Director in Representing Ireland: Literature and Film.
3. Written examination of material covered in Representing Ireland: Literature and Film.
COURSE PROFESSORS

Sean Ryder, M.A., Ph.D
Sean Ryder is Professor of English at NUI Galway. He was born in the United States and received his PhD from University College Dublin. His main research fields are nineteenth-century Irish writing and digital humanities. He has published widely on the culture of Irish nationalism and on Irish cinema.

Lionel Pilkington, M.A., Ph.D
Lionel Pilkington is Personal Professor of English at NUI Galway. His research interests include theatre and political conflict in Ireland, critical theory and the cultural impact of colonialism. His book *Theatre and the State in 20th Century Ireland: Cultivating the People* was published in 2001 and his book *Theatre and Ireland* in 2010.

Fiona Bateman, M.A., Ph.D
Fiona Bateman is a graduate of University College Dublin and NUI Galway. She coordinates the MA in Public Advocacy & Activism at NUI Galway and teaches courses on Irish cinema, cinema and colonialism, and African writing. Her publications include articles about the Irish Foreign missions and co-edited collections of essays including *Studies in Settler Colonialism* (2011).

Elaine Cosgrove, M.A.
Elaine Cosgrove is a graduate of NUI Galway and Trinity College Dublin. She has published her work in several literary journals (selected as featured poet for the *The Stinging Fly*, 2015) and has read her poetry at numerous literary festivals.

Mary O’Malley
Mary O’Malley is one of Ireland’s leading poets. She was born in Connemara and educated at NUI, Galway, and has lectured in several universities in Europe and the United States. She has published seven volumes of poetry, including *A Perfect V* (2006) and *Valparaiso* (2012). Mary was elected to Aosdána, the honorary affiliation of Irish artists in 2001, and her work has been translated into several languages. She is a frequent broadcaster on Irish radio.