

Degree	Type	Year	Semester
2500245 English Studies	OT	3	0
2500245 English Studies	OT	4	0

Contact

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Use of languages

Principal working language: english (eng)
Some groups entirely in English: Yes
Some groups entirely in Catalan: No
Some groups entirely in Spanish: No

Prerequisites

This course requires the student to have a basic knowledge of culture and society, departing from the knowledge obtained in the relevant subject taught in the first year.

This course requires the student to read thoroughly and with great attention to detail.

Objectives and Contextualisation

The principal object is to stimulate interest in Irish literature in particular and literature in general.

Skills

English Studies

- Critically assessing the scientific, literary and cultural production in the English language.
- Demonstrate a comprehension of the relationship between factors, processes and phenomena of linguistics, literature, history and culture, and explaining it.
- Distinguish and contrast the various theoretical and methodological models applied to the study of the English language, its literature and its culture.
- Identify the main literary, cultural and historical currents in the English language.
- Produce clear and well structured and detailed texts in English about complex topics, displaying a correct use of the organisation, connection and cohesion of the text.
- Rewrite and organize information and arguments coming from several sources in English and presenting them in a coherent and summarised way.
- Students can apply the knowledge to their own work or vocation in a professional manner and have the powers generally demonstrated by preparing and defending arguments and solving problems within their area of study.
- Students have the ability to gather and interpret relevant data (normally within their study area) to issue judgments that include reflection on important issues of social, scientific or ethical.
- Students must be capable of communicating information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialised and non-specialised audiences.
- Students must develop the necessary learning skills in order to undertake further training with a high degree of autonomy.

- Students must have and understand knowledge of an area of study built on the basis of general secondary education, and while it relies on some advanced textbooks it also includes some aspects coming from the forefront of its field of study.

Learning outcomes

1. Analysing and interpreting in an advanced level secondary texts about the contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
2. Apply the knowledge and competences acquired in the professional and academic activities related to literature, history and culture.
3. Applying appropriate secondary academic sources to text comments and argumentative essays about contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
4. Communicating in the studied language in oral and written form, properly using vocabulary and grammar.
5. Comparing and relating in an advanced level various topics and texts of the contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
6. Comparing in an advanced level the methodologies of literary criticism applied to contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
7. Demonstrate a master of the specific methods of individual academic work that prepare the student for a postgraduate specialised education in the same or a different field of study.
8. Demonstrating a sound knowledge about the topics related to the study of literature and culture.
9. Describing in detail and in an academic way the nature and main traits of the contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
10. Distinguishing the main ideas from the secondary ones and summarising the contents of primary and secondary texts about contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
11. Drawing up academic essays of medium length, using secondary academic sources in relation to the contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
12. Effectively communicating and applying the argumentative and textual processes to formal and scientific texts.
13. Explaining in detail and in an academic way the diachronic and synchronic evolution of the topics and texts of the contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
14. Issue rating pertinent criticism supported in understanding the relevant information on issues related to the literature and culture of social, scientific or ethical concern.
15. Localising secondary academic sources in the library or on the Internet related to the contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
16. Mastering the advanced knowledge and scientific methodologies related to linguistics, literature, history and culture that prepare the student for a postgraduate specialised education in the same or a different field of study.
17. Students must reflect on and give their opinion about primary texts of the contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).
18. Summarising the content of academic primary and secondary sources about contemporary English literature (United Kingdom, United States, and other territories).

Content

This course is an introduction to Irish literature of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The course is divided into two halves. The first focuses on the work of two classic Anglo-Irish writers: the great Modernist, James Joyce, and the great poet, playwright and politician, William Butler Yeats. Historically and socially, these writers and their works are located in the struggle for independence, the Easter Rising, the setting up of the Irish Free State (1922) and the ensuing Civil War (1922-3).

The second half of the course will focus on three novels: Elizabeth Bowen's *The Last September* (1929), Edna O'Brien's *The Country Girls* (1960), John McGahern's *Amongst Women* (1990). We will see to what extent the violent upheavals of the early decades cast a huge shadow over modern literary works as Ireland strives to come to terms with modernity. The possibility or impossibility of forgiveness and reconciliation, either between families or between north and south, becomes a central concern.

We will also look briefly, time permitting, at Irish music and other cultural manifestations.

A brief list of associated topics includes:

- The Abbey Theatre
- The Irish artist
- The Catholic Church
- National identity
- Nationalism and internationalism
- The Troubles
- Gender
- Sexuality and repression
- Myth, archetypes and stereotypes

Primary Reading:

Module 1

** Yeats, William Butler & Lady Gregory, *Cathleen ni Houlihan* (any edition).

**Yeats, William Butler, *Selected Poems*, (intro. Timothy Webb), Harmondsworth: Penguin Modern Classics, 2000.

**James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, (intro. Jeri Johnson), Oxford: Oxford World Classics, 2008.

Module 2

**Elizabeth Bowen. *The Last September*. London: Vintage: 1998.

**Edna O'Brien. *The Country Girls*. London: Phoenix, 2007.

**John McGahern. *Amongst Women*. London: Faber, 2008.

Methodology

1. Reading
2. Thinking
3. Discussing

Activities

Title	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Type: Supervised			
Classroom based activities	50	2	1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 13, 4, 17
Supervised activities	25	1	1, 5, 8, 9, 14, 13, 11, 17
Type: Autonomous			
Student autonomy	50	2	1, 6, 5, 8, 9, 14, 13, 12, 4, 15, 17

Evaluation

The subject is assessed in the following way:

- Participation in class and in the debates on the Virtual Campus, 20%
- Exams, $2 \times 40\% = 80\%$
- The subject uses continuous assessment - students must complete all items.
- Class attendance is compulsory.
- The level of written and spoken English will be taken into account.
- Plagiarism, of any sort, will lead to the automatic failing of the whole subject.
- The handing-in of at least one exercise will exclude the student from the possibility of being qualified as No available (not eligible for assessment)
- Reassessment comprises a two-hour exam covering the entirety of the course material. It is the Faculty, not the teacher, who will determine the date and time. Only students who have completed the continuous assessment items are allowed to opt for reassessment.
- In addition, students must have obtained an overall grade of between 4.5 & 4.9.
- Consequently, reassessment cannot be used to improve your final mark.
- Participation (20%) cannot be reassessed.

Evaluation activities

Title	Weighting	Hours	ECTS	Learning outcomes
Participation	20%	22	0.88	8, 9, 14, 13, 4, 17
Written assessment	80%	3	0.12	1, 3, 2, 6, 5, 8, 16, 7, 9, 10, 13, 12, 4, 15, 11, 17, 18

Bibliography

** = primary reading. Please acquire and read these texts now.

UNIT 1

** Yeats, William Butler & Lady Gregory, *Cathleen ni Houlihan* (any edition).

Yeats, William Butler, *Selected Poems*, (intro. Timothy Webb), Harmondsworth: Penguin Modern Classics, 2000.

James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man*, (intro. Jeri Johnson), Oxford: Oxford World Classics, 2008.

UNIT 2

**Elizabeth Bowen. *The Last September*. London: Vintage: 1998.

**Edna O'Brien. *The Country Girls*. London: Phoenix, 2007.

**John McGahern. *Amongst Women*. London: Faber, 2008.

Basic bibliography to be found in the Humanities Library

Regan, Stephen (ed). *Irish Writing: An Anthology of Irish Literature in English 1789-1939*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2004.

Deane, Seamus (ed). *Field Day Anthology of Irish Writing* (3 volumes).

Donnelly, James S (ed). *Encyclopedia of Irish History and Culture*. Detroit: Thomson Gale, 2004.

Ellmann, Richard. *Yeats: The Man and the Masks*. London: Faber, 2001.

Heaney, Seamus. *Finders Keepers: Selected Prose 1971-2001*. London: Faber, 2002

Kiberd, Declan. *Synge and the Irish Language*. London: Macmillan, 1993.

Ranelagh, John O'Beirne. *A Short History of Ireland*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP 1983.

Electronic Resources available at the UAB:

The Cambridge Companion to: James Joyce, Twentieth-Century Irish Drama, Irish Novel, and Modern Irish Culture.