

| 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.

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.