

27852 - Irish Literature

Syllabus Information

Academic Year: 2020/21

Subject: 27852 - Irish Literature

Faculty / School: 103 - Facultad de Filosofía y Letras

Degree: 416 - Degree in English

ECTS: 6.0

Year: 3

Semester: Second semester

Subject Type: Optional

Module: ---

1.General information

1.1.Aims of the course

1.2.Context and importance of this course in the degree

1.3.Recommendations to take this course

2.Learning goals

2.1.Competences

2.2.Learning goals

2.3.Importance of learning goals

3.Assessment (1st and 2nd call)

3.1.Assessment tasks (description of tasks, marking system and assessment criteria)

4.Methodology, learning tasks, syllabus and resources

4.1.Methodological overview

See "Learning tasks " and "Syllabus".

More information will be provided on the first day of class.

4.2.Learning tasks

This is a 6 ECTS course organized as follows:

- Lectures.
- Practice sessions.
- Autonomous work and study.
- Assessment tasks.

4.3.Syllabus

1.The Irish Novel

1.1. Introduction: What is "Irish" literature? What is an "Irish" writer? What is an "Irish" novel?

1.2. Difficulties for the emergence of the Irish novel: the colonial paradigm.

1.3. Formal and structural features of the Irish novel.

1.4. Main genres and themes

1.5 The Contemporary Irish Novel

Readings: extracts from *Castle Rackrent* (Maria Edgeworth, 1800), "Carmilla" (Sheridan Le Fanu, 1872); "Themes" (*The Novel and the Nation*, Gerry Smith, 1997: pp.48-62)

2. The Big House Novel

2.1. The Anglo-Irish Ascendancy and Big House culture.

2.4. Conventions of the genre. Main authors and titles.

Readings:

1) "Conventions of the Big House Novel" (Vera Kreilkamp, *The Anglo-Irish Novel and the Big House*: 20-25)

2) Yeats's "Upon a House Shaken by The Land Agitation" (Yeats, *Responsibilities and Other Poems*, 1914)

3) "Coole Park, 1929" (Yeats, *The Winding Stair and Other Poems*, 1929)

2.5. William Trevor's Big House trilogy: a revisionist approach.

Reading: William Trevor's *Fools of Fortune* (1983)

3. The peasant novel

3.1. The myth of rural Ireland

Extracts: *The Quiet Man* (John Ford, 1952); *Glimpses of Erin* (James FitzPatrick, 1934), and *Man of Aran* (Robert J. Flaherty, 1934)

Reading: "Bell Wethers" (Jim Phelan [1895-1966] *Bog Blossom Stories*, London: Sidgwick and Jackson, 1948)

3.2. Women in rural Ireland

Reading: O'Hara, Patricia. "Women in Farm Families: Shedding the Past and Fashioning the Future". In Anne Byrne and Madeleine Leonard, eds., *Women and Irish Society: A Sociological Reader*, Belfast: Beyond the Pale Publications, 1997: 361-376.

3.3. Main representatives of the genre

Reading: *The Boy in the Moon* (Kate O'Riordan, London: Flamingo, 1997)

4. The Historical Novel

4.1. The Irish backward look and obsession with the past

4.2. Narrative, Memory and History

4.3. Female Sexuality in Ireland

Recommended film: *The Secret Scripture* (Jim Sheridan, 2016)

Readings: Chapters from Sebastian Barry's *The Secret Scripture* (2008), and "The Husband" by Mary Dorcey (*A Noise in the Woodshed*, 1989)

5. The Troubles novel

5.1. The historical facts

5.2. Different explanations for the Troubles

Reading: "Religion, ethnicity and colonialism as explanations of the Northern Ireland conflict" (Pamela Clayton. Ed. David Miller, *Rethinking Northern Ireland: Culture, Ideology and Nationalism*. London and New York: Longman, 1998: 40-54)

5.3. Media and visual representations of the Troubles

5.4. Written fiction: novels and short stories

Recommended Film: *Bloody Sunday* (Paul Greengrass, 2002)

Readings: "Cancer" (Eugene McCabe, 1973); chapters from *Milkman* (Anna Burns, 2018).

4.4. Course planning and calendar

Further information concerning the timetable, classroom, office hours, assessment dates and other details regarding this course, will be provided on the first day of class or please refer to the Faculty of Philosophy and Arts website (academic calendar: <http://academico.unizar.es/calendario-academico/calendario>, timetable: <https://fyl.unizar.es/horario-de-clases#overlay-context=horario-de-clases>; assessment dates: <https://fyl.unizar.es/calendario-de-examenes#overlay-context=>)

4.5. Bibliography and recommended resources