

27852 - Irish Literature

Syllabus Information

Academic Year: 2019/20

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

The course will address the following topics:

Topic 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
 - **Readings:** extracts from *Castle Rackrent* (Maria Edgeworth, 1800), *The Wild Irish Girl* (Lady Morgan, 1806) and "Carmilla" (Sheridan Le Fanu, 1872)
 - "Themes" (*The Novel and the Nation*, Gerry Smith, 1997: pp.48-62)
- 1.5 The Contemporary Irish Novel
 - **Reading:** "The Forester's Daughter" (Claire Keegan, *Walk the Blue Fields*, 2007)

Topic 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)
 - **Reading:** fragment from John Banville's *Birchwood* (1973)
- 2.5. William Trevor's Big House trilogy: a revisionist approach
 - **Reading:** William Trevor's *Fools of Fortune* (1983)

Topic 3. The peasant novel

- 3.1. The myth of rural Ireland
 - Extracts: *The Quiet Man* (John Ford, 1952) 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)

topic 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

Reading: ?Hy-Brasil? by Mary Burke (2004); ?The Husband? by Mary Dorsey (*A Noise in the Woodshed*, 1989); *The Secret Scripture* by Sebastian Barry (2008).

Topic 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
 - **Readings:** William Trevor's "Attracta" (*William Trevor, The Collected Stories*. London and New York: Penguin, 1992 [1978]: 675-690) and Eugene McCabe's "Victims".
 - **Reading:** Eoin McNamee's *Resurrection Man*
 - **Reading:** "The Precession of Simulacra" (Jean Baudrillard. Ed. Bran Nicol, *Postmodernism and the Contemporary Novel: A Reader*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2002 [1981]: 91-109)

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=\)](https://fyl.unizar.es/calendario-de-examenes#overlay-context=)

4.5. Bibliography and recommended resources