

Sul Ross State University
Rio Grande College

ENGL 5306 Seminar: Studies and Research Techniques in English Literature: Irish Literature in English

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and by appointment

Course Description

In ENGL 5306 we will read twentieth-century Irish Literature in English. As we read about Irish history along with the literature, we will explore what determines national identity and ask what makes an author Irish if he or she writes in English and lives outside Ireland. We will explore works that question national destiny and themes about the uncertainties and instabilities that come with living on borders and in bicultural worlds. We may discover that Irish literature cannot be reduced to one type of nationalism. As we pursue our quest for discovering what Irish literature in English is, we will read some articles on historical, political, and literary contexts and Irish poetry and short stories.

Course Texts

William Trevor, *The Oxford Book of Irish Short Stories*. Oxford University Press. 2010. ISBN-10: 0199583145 ISBN-13: 978-0199583140

Wes Davis, *An Anthology of Modern Irish Poetry*. Belknap Press. 2013. ISBN-10: 0674072227 ISBN-13: 978-0674072220

On Blackboard

Online readings can be found in each unit folder.

Course Objectives (CO)

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to

1. apply knowledge about historical, social, and political contexts to analyses of themes in Irish literature
2. analyze how characterization, point of view, setting, and plot in Anglo-Irish literature contribute to themes of national and personal identity;
3. evaluate complex Irish literary language;
4. support an original inquiry-based thesis in a seminar paper on Irish Literature in English suitable for presentation at a conference

Activities (aligned to Course Objectives CO) and Grade Distribution

Activity	Points out of 100	Date Due
Video conferences (CO 1, 2, 3)	10	to be determined
Literature Responses (four x 5 points) (CO 1, 2, 3)	20	Saturday 11:59 p.m.
Conference Paper (CO 4)		
Proposal	C/I	Wednesday, July 18
Annotated Bibliography	20	Wednesday, July 25
Paper	30	Saturday, August 11
Final Exam (CO 1, 2, 3)	20	Tuesday August 14

Course Policies

SRSU Distance Education Policy: Students enrolled in distance education courses have equal access to the university's academic support services, library resources, and instructional technology support. For more information about accessing these resources, visit the SRSU website. Students should submit online assignments through Blackboard or SRSU email, which require secure login information to verify students' identities and to protect students' information. The procedures for filing a student complaint are included in the student handbook. Students enrolled in distance education courses at Sul Ross are expected to adhere to all policies pertaining to academic honesty and appropriate student conduct, as described in the student handbook. Students in web-based courses must maintain appropriate equipment and software, according to the needs and requirements of the course, as outlined on the SRSU website.

Procedures and Policies for Blackboard Courses

Course assignments must be produced in formats that we can open and read. In general, saving files as Microsoft Word documents or as rtf files will be best. If you have questions about Blackboard, contact Sandy Bogus at 432-837-8523 or sbogus@sulross.edu or Rusty Klein at rklein@sulross.edu or 432 837 8595.

Scholastic Honesty

All work submitted must be your own and must be written exclusively for this class; the use of sources must be appropriately, correctly, and consistently documented.

Americans with Disabilities Act

Sul Ross State University-Rio Grande College is committed to equal access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1973. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request for accessibility services. Students seeking accessibility services must contact Kathy Biddick in Student

Services, Room C-102, Uvalde campus. The mailing address is 2623 Garner Field Road, Sul Ross State University-Rio Grande College, Uvalde, Texas 78801. Telephone: 830-279-3003. E-mail: kbiddick@sulross.edu.

Schedule

It is challenging to schedule readings so that the readings inspire and inform your own ideas and writing. It is expected that you may revise your seminar paper up to the last minute as you read the later works. You might find a poem or story that supports your thesis in the last week. It will be appropriate for you to change your paper accordingly.

Unit 1 July 10 – July 11, 2018: Introduction to Course

Unit 2 July 11 – July 12: Historical, Political, Literary Contexts

- Richard Fallis “Past and Present: The Burden of Irish History”
- Richard Fallis “The Patriot Game: Politics and Revolution 1891-1923”
- Richard Fallis “A Nation Once Again?: Social and Political Contexts since 1923”
- *Oxford Book of Irish Short Stories*: Folktales (1-14)

Unit 3 July 13 – July 14 Short Stories

1st Literature Response Paper due July 14

- *Oxford Book of Irish Short Stories*: William Trevor’s “Introduction” (ix – xvi)
Read stories by the following authors (page numbers in parentheses):
James Joyce (228)
Elizabeth Bowen (311)

Unit 3 July 16 – July 21 Short Stories

Proposal for Seminar Paper due July 18; 2nd Literature Response Paper due July 21

- *Oxford Book of Irish Short Stories*:
Read stories by the following authors (page numbers in parentheses):

Padraic O Conaire (267)
James Stephens (271)
Joyce Cary (277)
Liam O’Flaherty (287 and 300)

Sean O'Faolain (319 and 338)
 Frank O'Connor (342 and 354)
 Patrick Boyle (363)
 Mairtin O Cadhain (375)
 Michael McLaverty (382)
 Bryan MacMahon (388)
 Mary Lavin (392)

Unit 4 July 23 -- July 28 Poetry

Annotated Bibliography due July 25; 3rd Literature Response Paper due July 28

- *Anthology of Modern Irish Poetry*: Wes Davis's "Introduction" (1-15)
 Read poetry by the following poets and the introductions to each poet (page numbers in parentheses)
 Padraic Colum (16)
 Louis MacNeice (93)
 Patrick Kavanagh (64)
 Thomas Kinsella (231)
 James Simmons (275)
 John Montague (257 ff)
 Desmond O'Grady (291)
 Michael Davitt (586)
 Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill (689)
 Paul Muldoon (630)

Unit 5 July 30 – August 11 Short Stories and Poetry; Themes in Irish Literature

4th & last Literature Response Paper due August 4; Seminar Paper due August 11

- *Anthology of Modern Irish Poetry*:
 Seamus Heaney (325)
 Michael Longley (357)
 Eavan Boland (470)
 Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin (453)
 Michael Hartnett (410)

- *Oxford Book of Irish Short Stories:*
Terence de Vere White (401)
Benedict Kiely (412)
James Plunkett (425)
Val Mulherns (437)
Aidan Higgins (445)
William Trevor (455)
Brian Friel (471)
John Montague (482)
Edna O'Brien (495)
Julia O'Faolain (515)
John McGahern (526)
Bernard Mac Laverty (541)
Desmond Hogan (552)

August 14

Final Exam