

American College Dublin

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LIB480 IRISH CULTURAL STUDIES

Credits:	3 US credits / 6 ECTS credits
Credit level:	
Prerequisites:	None
Mandatory:	No
Contact hours:	40
Academic Year:	2016/17
Semester:	2
Lecturer:	

MODULE DESCRIPTION

An exploration of aspects of historical and contemporary manifestations of Irish culture. Topics include plays, storytelling, movies, media and literature in Ireland; Irish music from traditional to U2; contemporary Irish architecture and design; socialising and entertainment; fashion, taste and materialism in the era of the Celtic Tiger and the recession. The course makes extensive use through field trips of the cultural amenities of Ireland's vibrant capital city, Dublin.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the module the student will have attained the following learning outcomes:

1. An awareness of the historical background to contemporary Ireland's cultural life.
2. An appreciation of some of the vital and dynamic areas of cultural expression in contemporary Ireland.
3. An understanding of the impact which economic development has had on the cultural life of Ireland.
4. An awareness of the role of the new multiculturalism in contemporary Ireland.
5. An appreciation of the built environment of Dublin's cultural spaces and cityscape.

COURSE OUTLINE

1. Introduction to cultural studies as a theoretical discourse and its application to an analysis of contemporary Irish culture.

2. An outline of Irish political, social and cultural history.
3. The social context: socialising and entertainment in contemporary Ireland.
4. Music as an expression of Irish cultural life.
5. Irish media: television, radio, newspapers, internet and the movies.
6. The new tribalism: sport and Irishness.
7. Storytelling, conversation and comedy.
8. The changing face of Ireland: architecture and design in modern Ireland.
9. Globalisation, Ireland and Irish culture
10. Fashion, taste and materialism in the new Ireland

TEACHING METHOD

Class sessions will be conducted in a lecture and discussion format. Student participation will be required in the form of full and punctual attendance, the taking of lecture notes, completion of required reading, involvement in class discussions and the furnishing of assigned reports on various themes to the lecturer or the rest of the class. Field trips will explore historically relevant aspects of Ireland's capital city.

REQUIRED TEXT

The soul of Ireland: issues of society, culture and identity, edited by Joe Mulholland (Dublin, 2006)

SUPPLEMENTARY READING LIST

David McWilliams, *The Pope's children: Ireland's new elite* (Dublin, 2006)

The course of Irish history, ed. by T.W. Moody and F.X. Martin (Dublin, 2002)

The new Ireland and its sacred cows, edited by Jim Malone (Dublin, 2005)

ASSESSMENT/GRADING

Continuous assessment will constitute 50% of the final grade. The components will include participation and attendance, short papers, reports and presentations.

The remaining 50% will be made up of a final paper, the subject of which and due date will be agreed with the lecturer.

All work will be graded in an alphabetical-percentage format: an 'A+' will be awarded for work which attains 95% to 100%; an 'A' for 90% to 94%; a 'B+' for 85% to 89%; a 'B' for 80% to 84%; a 'C+' for 75% to 79%; a 'C' for 70% to 74%; a 'D+' for 65% to 69%; a 'D' for 60% to 64%; an 'F' for anything less than 60%. For the final grade, all percentages will be reduced to the proportions indicated above in the evaluation section; those values will be tallied to provide the final percentage; the appropriate alphabetical value will then be awarded.

LIB480 Irish cultural studies – final

Write a reflective essay on the insights you have had into Irish culture in the course of your stay in Ireland. Refer to historical and cultural sites you have encountered, particularly those in the course of this class, social interactions you have had with Irish people, and the various impressions you have had of vehicles for Irish culture such as music, literature, advertising, sport and fashion.

ATTENDANCE

Attendance is crucial. In the case of illness or other unforeseen circumstances preventing attendance, it is the student's responsibility to telephone the college office to notify the lecturer. Repeated unexcused absence from class may result in the student being awarded an 'F' final grade.

ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE

Refer to the subsection on 'Academic Discipline' in the current ACD publication, *Student handbook*.