IRST30230
Performing Irish Identity

Dr. Darragh Gannon
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PERFORMING IRISH IDENTITY

Course description:
With over 70 million people worldwide claiming Irish descent, the expression of Irish cultural identity has a global impact and influence. Drawing on the wide-ranging and world-leading expertise of the faculty at the UCD College of Arts and Humanities, this multidisciplinary module will explore how Irish identity is ‘performed’ through a range of cultural practices and traditions. Case-studies and examples will draw from current scholarship in the disciplines of art, film, folklore, literature, manuscript production, music and dance, sculpture, sporting activities, storytelling, theatre and other cultural activities.

Course objectives:
1. To explore the themes, identities, and experiences which define modern Ireland.
2. To equip students with the interdisciplinary agency to practise Irish Studies.
3. To foster student engagement with Ireland’s rich cultural heritage.
4. To reconceptualise understandings of modern Ireland through research-led teaching.
5. To cultivate, and sustain, student engagement in the study of Ireland.

Learning outcomes:
1. Each student will be able to discuss, analyse, and understand the varieties of Irishness which define modern Ireland.
2. Each student will develop multidisciplinary perspectives on Irish history.
3. Each student will augment their archival, curatorial, and bibliographical skills.
4. Each student will apply their knowledge to creative learning assignments.
5. Each student will establish connections with Ireland’s cultural heritage institutions.

Course assessment:
The course is assessed in three parts:
1. Policy document (50%) – historically-sourced policy proposal to the Irish Department of Tourism, Culture, and Arts’ ‘Commemorations Unit’ (2,000 words).
2. Report on cultural site (30%) – review of one [non-UCD] cultural site visited during the module (1,000 words).
3. Reflective journal (20%) – journal reflecting on the module themes discussed in lectures and seminars (800 words).

Readings:
- Students are required to read the primary/secondary sources for each theme in advance of that day’s teaching. These texts will be made available on Brightspace.
- Students are recommended to consult a wider range of books in the UCD James Joyce Library. A selection of recommended readings will be cited on Brightspace.

Daily teaching: Each morning students will enjoy a one-hour lecture and a one-hour seminar on a theme. All classes will take place in B210 unless otherwise indicated in the schedule.
Week 1

Monday (13 June) Myth Culture
9.00 – 10.00 Lecture [Allison Galbari]
10.00 – 11.00 Seminar
11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break
11.30 – 13.00 On-campus activity
13.00 – 15.00 Lunch
15.00 – 17.00 Tutorial

Tuesday (14 June) Archaeological/Material culture
9.00 – 10.00 Lecture [Prof. Joanna Bruck]
10.00 – 11.00 Seminar
11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break
11.30 – 13.00 On-campus activity
13.00 – 15.00 Lunch
15.00 – Dublin cultural site: National Library of Ireland

Wednesday (15 June) Archival Culture
9.00 – 10.00 Lecture [Dr. Mary McAuliffe]
10.00 – 11.00 Seminar
11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break
11.30 – 13.00 On-campus activity
13.00 – 15.00 Lunch
15.00 – Dublin cultural site: National Museum of Ireland
Thursday (16 June) Art culture
9.00 – 10.00 Lecture [Dr. Róisín Kennedy]
10.00 – 11.00 Seminar
11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break
11.30 – 13.00 On-campus activity
13.00 – 15.00 Lunch
15.00 – Dublin cultural site: Irish Museum of Modern Art

Friday (17 June) Sporting culture
9.00 – 10.00 Lecture [Dr. David Doolin]
10.00 – 11.00 Seminar
11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break
11.30 – 13.00 On-campus activity
13.00 – Free afternoon

Week 2

Monday (20 June) Music culture
9.00 – 10.00 Lecture [Dr. Jaime Jones]
10.00 – 11.00 Seminar
11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break
11.30 – 13.00 On-campus activity
15.00 – Dublin cultural site: Irish Rock n Roll museum

Tuesday (21 June) Theatre culture
9.00 – 10.00 Lecture [Dr. David McKinney]
10.00 – 11.00 Seminar
11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break
11.30 – 13.00 On-campus activity
13.00 – Free afternoon
20.00 – Dublin cultural site: Abbey Theatre

**Wednesday (22 June) Visual culture**
9.00 – 10.00 Lecture [Dr. Darragh Gannon]
10.00 – 11.00 Seminar
11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break
11.30 – 13.00 On-campus activity
13.00 – 15.00 Lunch
15.00 – Dublin cultural site: Hugh Lane Gallery

**Thursday (23 June) Print culture**
9.00 – 10.00 Lecture [Dr. Fiona Lyons]
10.00 – 11.00 Seminar
11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break
11.30 – 13.00 On-campus activity
13.00 – 15.00 Lunch
15.00 – Dublin cultural site: James Joyce Tower

**Friday (24 June) Review of Performing Irish identity**
10.00 – 11.00 Lecture [Dr. Darragh Gannon]
11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break
11.30 – 13.00 On-campus activity
13.00 – Free afternoon