ENG 282
Global Literatures: Defining Ireland
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Catalog Description:
Analysis, interpretation and discussion of a range of texts in global literatures with attention to cultural contexts.

Course Section Description:
What’s the most authentic Ireland? We will read literature and study cultural, historical, and tourist sites to understand how Irish identity has shifted under the pressures of colonialism, emigration, immigration, and globalization. Questions we will consider include the following:

- how does language define cultural identity, especially in a nation where the majority language is not the indigenous language?
- what role does race play in determining membership in a country characterized by waves of emigration and immigration?
- how is Irish identity expressed abroad, through emigrant cultural expressions?
- how is Irish identity expressed in Ireland to visitors, through tourism?
- what roles do rural, suburban, and urban Ireland play in defining Irishness?

Although our readings, tours, and discussions will focus on Irish identity, the questions we raise may also be applicable to other ethnic identities, especially those that have been shaped by colonialism and migration.

This alternative version of the course will include one week of classes on the WWU campus, featuring reading, lecture, discussion, and field orientation, two weeks of travel and study in Ireland, and further time at WWU to complete a final project and follow-up meetings. Class sessions, guided site visits, and orientation will be interspersed with research and travel days. We will visit sites that inspired the literature in the course, including urban Dublin and rural Sligo and the Aran Islands. We will participate in an online language-learning website in preparation for dual-language and Gaeltacht environments that we’ll visit during our travels, and dual-language poetry readings (clarification: this is not a language class, but brief exposure to the language will help students follow course texts that engage language issues). We will visit cultural sites and performances, and consider how Ireland is defined by and for both insiders and visiting outsiders: we will analyze our own experiences of the country as tourists, scholars, and travelers alongside the experiences represented in the literature we read.

Readings:
Adigun/Doyle selections from The Playboy of the Western World
Boland selections from Object Lessons
Cheng “Inventing Irishness: Authenticity and Identity”
Deevy Katie Roche (theater performance)
Doyle selections from The Deportees and Other Stories
Ford The Quiet Man (film screening)
Heaney selections from North
Joyce “The Dead”
Ní Dhomhnaill Pharaoh’s Daughter
“Why I Choose to Write in Irish”
O’Hara “Yu Ming Is Ainn Dom”
Synge The Playboy of the Western World
Yeats The Celtic Twilight
selections from Collected Poems
Course Requirements

- informal journal, reading response, and/or research question writing as requested
- a group oral presentation on an Irish cultural/historical site
- two short formal close-reading papers (3-4 pages)
- a final formal paper that expands on a close reading paper by relating it to another text and/or cultural/historical site (5-6 pages)
- participation in Duolingo Irish language web page
- peer critiques
- attendance at class sessions and site visits
- regular and active participation in class discussion and orientation sessions
- post-class individual paper appointment and group follow-up session
- appropriate personal and scholarly conduct at home and abroad