This is a tentative sample course schedule that will be updated before the class begins.

# Combined Syllabus: ENG 342/415 and ENG 311/410

## Course Description: Irish Poetry and Politics (ENG 342/415)

Poetry and politics have long had a close relationship in Ireland, a country in which a poet was appointed to the first Senate following independence from Britain, creative writers receive an income tax exemption, and the national symbol is a harp—as closely associated with poetry as with music. In Ireland, Eavan Boland writes, “the idea of the poet was honored. It was an emblem to the whole culture that self-expression and survival could combine.” Studying Irish poetry thus provides a rich entry into questions about the relationship between poetry, identity, and politics more generally. How does poetry influence politics? What makes a politically effective poem, and what can a poem accomplish that other forms of political writing can’t? How do poems establish relationships between national and other identities (for example public, private, gender, language, individual, postcolonial, or globalized identity)? We will approach these questions through critical and theoretical texts on literature and politics as well as creative readings from poets.

### Texts:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Anderson | “Cultural Roots,” from *Imagined Communities* |
| Boland | selections from *Object Lessons* |
| Cheng | “Catching the Irish Spirit,” from *Inauthentic* |
| Downes | “Martyrs with Guns and the Easter Rising” |
| Heaney | *North* |
| Mangan | “Dark Rosaleen” |
| Moore, Thomas | *Irish Melodies* |
| Ní Dhomhnaill | *Pharaoh’s Daughter* |
|  | “Why I Choose to Write in Irish” |
| *Spirit of the Nation* | Selected poems, including work by Davis, Mangan, and Duffy |
| Yeats | *The Celtic Twilight* |
|  | selections from *Collected Poems* |

### Requirements

Course requirements for ENG 342 will include two short papers, a peer critique session, and a paper rewrite.

Course requirements for ENG 415 will include a research proposal, annotated bibliography, draft, and final paper.

## Course Description: Irish Literature of Emigration and Immigration (ENG 311/410)

How has Irish identity has shifted under the pressures of colonialism, emigration, immigration, and globalization? Who is Irish? We will consider Irish identity in a global context that includes Irish emigrant literature (with a focus on United States emigrants), Irish immigrant literature (with a focus on Nigerian immigrants), and an exploration of tensions between indigenous and colonial languages. Questions we will ask include the following:

* what roles do ethnicity and 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 affected by immigrants to Ireland?
* how is Irish identity expressed in Ireland to visitors, through tourism?

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

### Texts:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Adigun/Doyle R | selections from *The Playboy of the Western World*, adapted from Synge |
| Murray | “The Hat My Father Wore Upon St. Patrick’s Day” |
| Boland | selections from *Object Lessons* |
| Cheng | “Inventing Irishness: Authenticity and Identity” |
| Doyle B | “yes” and “A Note on Learning Gaelic” |
| Doyle R | selections from *The Deportees and Other Stories* |
| Ford | *The Quiet Man* (film screening) |
| Joyce | selections from *Ulysses* |
| Moore | “Spenser’s Ireland” |
| Muldoon | “Colmcille on Exile”; exile poem from *The Prince of the Quotidian* |
| O’Hara  | “Yu Ming Is Ainm Dom” (film screening) |
| Synge | *The Playboy of the Western World* |

### Requirements

Course requirements for the 300-level course sequence will include two short papers, a peer critique session, and a paper rewrite.

Course requirements for the 400-level course sequence will include a research proposal, annotated bibliography, draft, and final paper.

## Schedule

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Day/Place*** | ***Credit Hours (Total: 300)***  | ***Activity*** |
| **BELLINGHAM** |  |  |
| Week One (Credit hours: 46) |  |  |
| Mon | 2 | Introduction |
|  | 2x3 | Lecture/Discussion |
| Tues | 2 | Field Orientation  |
|  | 2x3 | Lecture/Discussion |
|  | 3 | Performance: Emigrant Cultural Expressions |
| Weds | 3 | Field Orientation |
|  | 2x3 | Lecture/Discussion |
| Thurs | 3 | Field Orientation |
|  | 2x3 | Lecture/Discussion |
| Fri | 3x3 | Lecture/Discussion |
| Week Two (Credit hours: 44) |  |  |
| Mon | 2 | Film screening/Discussion  |
|  | 2x3 | Lecture/Discussion |
| Tues | 3x3 | Lecture/Discussion |
| Weds | 3x3 | Lecture/Discussion |
| Thurs | 3x3 | Lecture/Discussion |
| Fri | 3x3 | Lecture/Discussion |
| Week Three (Credit hours: 45) |  |  |
| Mon | 3x3 | Lecture/Discussion |
| Tues | 3 | Film screening/Discussion |
|  | 2x3 | Lecture/Discussion |
| Weds | 3x3 | Lecture/Discussion |
| Thurs | 3x3 | Lecture/Discussion |
| Fri | 3x3 | Lecture/Discussion |
| **DUBLIN** |  |  |
| Week Four (Credit hours: 51) |  |  |
| Mon | 1 | CEA Orientation |
|  | 1 | Welcome lunch and city walk |
|  | 2 | Dublin City Tour  |
|  | 1.5x3 | Lecture/Discussion |
| Tues | 2x3 | Lecture/Discussion |
|  | 4 | Cultural excursion |
| Weds | 2x3 | Lecture/Discussion |
|  | 4 | Tour: Kilmainham Gaol |
| Thurs | 2x3 | Lecture/Discussion |
|  | 1.5 | Guest Lecture: The Abbey Theatre |
|  | 2 | Performance: The Abbey Theatre |
| Fri | 2x3 | Lecture/Discussion |
|  | 4 | Cultural excursion |
|  | 3 | Irish Dance Lesson/Performance |
| Week Five (Credit hours: 55) |  |  |
| Monday-Friday  | 15x3 | Lecture/Discussion |
|  | 10 | Cultural excursion |
| Week Six (Credit hours: 53) |  |  |
| **SLIGO** |  |  |
| Mon-Weds | 5x3 | Lecture/Discussion |
|  | 15 | Cultural excursion |
| **GALWAY** |  |  |
| Thurs | 1x3 | Lecture/Discussion |
|  | 8 | Cultural excursion |
| **ARAN ISLANDS/INISHMORE** |  |  |
| Fri | 12 | Cultural excursion |
| Weeks Seven and Eight will be a language immersion for another course. |
| Week Nine (Credit hours: 6) |  |  |
| **BELLINGHAM** |  |  |
|  |  | Final papers due |
|  | 2x3 | Group follow-up session |
|  |  | Individual follow-up appointment with instructor |