Course outcomes and graduate extras

Eng: 4391/5391: Irish Poetry and Mythology  Kay Murphy
Professor Emerita

Syllabus and Requirements

Attendance and class participation are mandatory.


Since there are two texts by this name, please note the author.

Because our time is short here, before you come to Cork you should read the Introduction and at least skim the first 4 chapters in your text. These chapters provide background information that will make understanding the stories much easier. All other material will be sent to you by email before the start of class. Print it out before coming to Cork. It is often difficult for at least the first week to get anything printed.

**This class meets on MWTH from 3:30-6:15**

I will meet for office hours at your request.

**Course Objectives**
- To enhance the experience of studying abroad by reading the folklore of Ireland, the historical and political poems of W.B. Yeats, and the contemporary poems of Seamus Heaney
- To understand that the mythology and folklore of Ireland influenced and contributed to some of the most important literature of the Western world
- To enhance critical thinking through the writing of weekly four-papers on the material
- To enhance critical thinking and oral articulation through directed class discussions
- To appreciate the Irish love of language through the reading of the material

**Graduate Course Objectives**
- To deepen the understanding of the material through the writing of weekly analytical papers of 1500 words
- To deepen the understanding of one narrowed topic from the reading material through a 20-30 minute class presentation The topic will be chosen by the student

**Week One:** Two days of class: 21-22 June: Poems by William Butler Yeats. Be prepared to discuss poems from the handout.

**Week Two:** Two days of class:
- 25: 4-page paper due on Yeats. Begin discussion on Tales of the Ultonian Cycle. *Celtic Myths...* pp. 130-192
- 27: Continue Ultonian Cycle

Trip to Dublin: Thursday 28 June-Sunday 1 July
**Week Three:** Three days of class
   2: Continue Ultonian Cycle
   4: Paper due on trip to Dublin (or on Irish culture if you stay in Cork)
   5: Begin discussion of the Tales of the Ossianic Cycle. *Celtic Myths*... pp. 193-238
      Midterm

**Week four:** Two days of class
   9: 4-Page Paper due on the Ultonian Cycle.
      Continue Discussion of the Ossianic Cycle
   11: Continue Discussion of the Ossianic Cycle
      Begin Discussion of the Poems of Seamus Heaney

Western Ireland Excursion: 12-14 July

**Week Five:** Three Days of Class
   16: 4-Page Paper due on the Ossianic Cycle
      Poems by Seamus Heaney
   18: Poems by Seamus Heaney and Eavan Boland
   19: Poems by Eavan Boland
   20: 3 Page Paper due on Seamus Heaney or Eavan Boland