Course Description
In 2016, Ireland celebrated the centenary of the Easter Rising, a landmark moment in Irish history that precipitated full independence from Great Britain in 1948. Since then, the country has endured many changes – from a national education system run by the Catholic Church to clerical abuse scandals that have eroded trust in religious institutions; from the poverty and hardship of the early 20th century to the financial exhilaration of the Celtic Tiger in the mid-1990s to the mid-2000s, and back to a debilitating recession; from an insular island nation on the western edge of Europe to a full-fledged member of the European Union; and, through the rapid growth of industry, technology and mass media, from a localized culture to a global one.

Yet despite all these upheavals, the Irish predilection for language and storytelling has flourished and the work of Irish poets, writers, musicians and artists continues to be celebrated at home and abroad.

For a comparatively small place, the island of Ireland has made a disproportionate contribution to world literature. This course is designed to introduce students to contemporary Irish literature through the work of poets like Seamus Heaney and Eavan Boland, and fiction writers like Roddy Doyle, Colm Toibin and Kevin Barry. Readings will be supplemented with excerpts from Irish film and frequent references to Irish history to provide context and encourage discussion of the ways in which poets and writers examine and influence personal and national identity. Through a wide variety of styles and subject-matter, contemporary Irish poets and writers look back to an illustrious literary tradition and forward to new body of writing that reflects a country coping with the benefits and burdens of globalization.

Required Texts:

GOALS:
By the end of the semester, students will be able to:
- identify major themes and concerns in contemporary Irish literature;
- demonstrate an understanding of the impact of politics, myth and folklore, religion and culture on contemporary Irish writers and their work;
- describe how the work of contemporary Irish poets and writers reflects the country’s shift from a local to a global culture;
- demonstrate an appreciation of the ways in which contemporary Irish poets and writers examine and shape personal and national identity.
TAP Specific Activities:
Since this is a First-Semester TAP (Teacher-Advisor Program) Seminar, designed to satisfy the writing and information literacy requirement (rhetorical discernment, information literacy, critical reading, and substantive revision), this course will include frequent writing assignments and an introduction to UVM resources, including Bailey-Howe Library and The Writing Center.

Attendance Policy:
You are expected to attend and participate in every class; if you are ill or need to miss a class, please email me to explain your absence. After three unexcused absences, your grade will be lowered by one half-letter grade, i.e., if you miss four classes, a B becomes a B-. Religious holidays and athletic or academic team commitments are, of course, acceptable but must be documented at the beginning of the term.

Other Course Information:
Please arrive on time and focus your full attention on the class. Unless otherwise directed, this is a screen-free class. No phones permitted.

ACCESS: Students with documented disabilities are encouraged to meet with me as soon as possible to discuss accommodations. Contact: ACCESS, A170 Living/Learning Center; 802-656-7753; access@uvm.edu

Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities:
http://www.uvm.edu/policies/student/studentcode.pdf

GRADING:
Attendance and active participation: 30%
Weekly writing assignments: 40%
Final portfolio: 30%

COURSE SCHEDULE (subject to change):

Week One
Aug. 29: Introductions and course outline
Aug. 31: Introduction to Irish Literature

Week Two
Tues, 9/5 Poetry, Politics & Northern Ireland
Seamus Heaney poems (see handout):
- “Punishment”
- “Requiem for the Croppies”
- “Two Lorries”

Thurs, 9/7 Paul Muldoon poems (see handout):
- “Anseo”
- “Truce”
- “The Lass of Aughrim,”
- “Meeting the British”
Week Three
Tues, 9/12  Granta Book of the Irish Short Story:
“Naming the Names” by Anne Devlin

Thurs, 9/14  Granta Book of the Irish Short Story:
“All the Names” by Anne Devlin

Week Four
Tues, 9/19  Introduction to Research
             Online Tutorials

Thurs, 9/21  Online Tutorials

Week Five
Tues, 9/26  Library Classroom Session – meet in Bailey Howe foyer

Thurs, 9/28  Irish Diaspora
             Excerpts from Brooklyn (2015) directed by John Crowley, based on
             the novel by Colm Toibin

Week Six
Tues, 10/3  Seamus Heaney poems (handout):
             • “Digging”
             • “Bogland”
             • “Blackberry Picking”
             • “Eelworks”
             • “The Conway Stewart”

Thurs, 10/5  Paul Muldoon poems (handout):
             o “The Fox”
             o “Sushi”
             o “The Birth”
             o “Lag”

Eavan Boland poems (handout):
             • “The Emigrant Irish”
             • “Edge of Empire: 1. The Hat”
             • “A Soldier in the 28th Massachusetts”
             • “The Port of New York: 1956”

Week Seven
Tues, 10/10  Irish Myth and Folklore
             Seamus Heaney poems (handout):
             • “Saint Kevin and the Blackbird”
             • “Out of the Bag”
             • “At the Wellhead”
“The Tollund Man”

Paul Muldoon poems (handout):
- “Anonymous: Myself and Pangur”
- “They That Wash on Thursday”

Eavan Boland poems (handout):
- “Amethyst Beads”
- “Nostalgia”
- “Eurydice Speaks”
- “As”
- “Sea Change”

Thurs, 10/12  Granta Book of the Irish Short Story:
- “The Pram” by Roddy Doyle
- “Midwife to the Fairies” by Eilis Ni Dhuihne

Week Eight
Tues, 10/17  Religion & Culture
Granta Book of the Irish Short Story:
- “An Attack of Hunger” by Maeve Brennan
- “Night in Tunisia” by Neil Jordan

Thurs, 10/19  Granta Book of the Irish Short Story:
- “Sister Imelda” by Edna O’Brien
- “The Key” by John McGahern

Week Nine
Tues, 10/24  Granta Book of the Irish Short Story:
- “A Priest in the Family” by Colm Toibin
- “See the Tree” by Kevin Barry

Thurs, 10/26  Writing Center visit

Week Ten
Tues, 10/31  Role of Women in Irish Life & Literature
Eavan Boland poems (handout):
- “A Women Without a Country”
- “The Moving Statue”
- “Marriages”
- “Shame”

Thurs, 11/2  Granta Book of the Irish Short Story:
- “Men & Women” by Claire Keegan (short film screening)
Week Eleven  
Tues, 11/7: Granta Book of the Irish Short Story:  
  • “Mothers Were All The Same” by Joseph O’Connor  

Thurs, 11/9: CAS Student Services Advisor visit  

Week Twelve  
Tues, 11/14: No class – advising week, individual meetings with me in my office  
  Thurs. 11/16: No class – advising week, individual meetings with me in my office  

Week Thirteen  
Tues, 11/21: No class – Thanksgiving Recess  
  Thurs, 11/23: No class – Thanksgiving Recess  

Week Fourteen  
Tues, 11/28: Annotated bibliography and narrative summary due in class  
  Thurs, 11/30: Grammar Quiz  

Week Fifteen  
Tues, 12/5: Final workshop – bring research paper final draft  
  Thurs, 12/7: Last day of class – portfolios due in my office by 4pm.  

Important Dates:  
Sept. 1: Last Day to Add Classes without Instructor Permission  
Sept. 11: Add/Drop ends  
Nov. 17: Registration for Spring 2018 classes begins for first-year students