Course Description

Escape enslavement with St. Patrick. Set sail from the rocky western coast of Ireland to lands unknown. Accompany the great warrior Cú Chulainn on his quest to single-handedly defend Ulster from the army of Queen Maeve. Flee the wrath of king Conchobar with Deirdre and her lover, Naoise. This course offers a survey of literature written in Ireland between ca. 400-1500. Major readings will include St. Patrick’s autobiography, the famous saga, *The Cattle Raid of Cooley*, accounts of Finn McCool and his band of élite warriors, the tale of Oisin’s journey to the Land of the Young, and several works pertaining to the lives of Ireland’s three major saints: Patrick, Bridget, and Columba. This course asks students to think critically about the ways in which literature reflects and enhances the culture that created it. Students will gain an understanding of the history and development of literature in Ireland. In the final week, they will explore how medieval literature persists in modern Irish culture. Through this course, students will develop a set of tools for examining the literature of other ancient, multilingual cultures. They will also have the opportunity to deepen their skills in close reading and oral and written expression. Some course texts will be read in Middle English. All course texts originally written in Irish, Latin, or French will be available in English translation.

Assessment

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<tr>
<th>Assessment</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Attendance and Participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two 5 min. oral reports accompanied by 2-page summaries</td>
<td>10% each, totaling 20%</td>
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<td>Blog post and responses to classmates’ posts</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peer-review of essay drafts of 2 classmates</td>
<td>5% each, totaling 10%</td>
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<td>7-8 page essay</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<td>Midterm Exam</td>
<td>15%</td>
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<td>Final Exam</td>
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Attendance and Preparation

Regular class attendance is expected. Over half of most class periods will be given over to discussion. Therefore, it will be difficult if not impossible to catch up on missed content. You are expected to have read and considered the assigned readings prior to coming to class. You will get the most out of this course by coming to course meetings prepared and ready to discuss the reading. Students are expected to attend every course meeting. Up to three absences will be tolerated; more than three absences will adversely affect your final grade.

Participation

Students are expected to regularly contribute to class discussion. Short assignments related to the readings will be given from time to time. Students are expected to contribute their thoughts and answers to these assignments in class discussion.
Group Reports
Twice during the semester, you will be asked to make an oral report with a partner or small group. One report will be on a topic chosen from a list of possible report topics. The other report will be on a scholarly book or article related to course material. In both cases, you should consult sources outside of the syllabus to prepare your report. These in-class reports should be approximately **4-5 minutes** long.

Topic report groups should be no more than 4 people.

Your topic report should include:

a) a summary of the topic,

b) a few of the scholars who have done major research on the topic, and

c) an explanation of how the topic might impact our understanding of medieval Irish literature and culture.

Your book or article group should consist of 2 people.

Your article/book report should include:

a) a summary of the material contained in the article/book, *including the author’s thesis*,

b) the author’s methodology (i.e. what theoretical perspectives the author uses and what evidence the author uses to support his/her argument),

c) an explanation of how the ideas expressed in the secondary source might impact our reading of course texts, and

d) an analysis of the value of the source, including possible counter-arguments.

*On the day of your report*, please turn in a 2-page summary of your report; these should be typed, double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font. Don’t forget to adequately cite your sources (you should only have 1-4 for these short reports) using Chicago Manual of Style or MLA conventions.

Blog Post
This assignment asks you to create a blog post about a modern (i.e. post 1600) use of material from medieval Irish literature. You and your classmates will then read and comment on others’ blog posts. Both your post and comments should display careful analysis. More detailed directions will be handed out closer to the due date, which is **Saturday, November 26th**.

Essay
The major graded work of this semester will be researching and writing an essay of 7-8 pages on a literary work or works and how it relates to one of the themes of this course. Your essay should present a clear thesis statement, and your arguments should be supported by concrete examples and secondary scholarship. You will have the opportunity to receive feedback on your essay as you write it. Each written assignment should be submitted in .doc or .docx format via email **prior to the beginning of class on the due date**. Because of the collaborative nature of the assignment, it is important that you hand in your own writing and your comments on others’ writing by the due dates. **Late submissions will be docked one full letter grade per day.**

1) During the first half of the semester, you will select a topic and begin research. From your research and reading, formulate a preliminary thesis. Write a polished introductory paragraph and one polished supporting paragraph. Outline the remaining unwritten portions of your essay. **The due date for your two paragraphs and outline is Thursday, October 27th.**
2) You will receive the work of two of your colleagues. Using Word, with “Track Changes” turned on, comment on your colleagues’ work, proofreading and suggesting areas where each colleague may want to delve deeper in his/her research. This process will be modeled in class prior to the due date. Return the commented paragraphs and outline to the professor. The due date for your comments is Thursday, November 3rd.

3) After receiving your paragraphs back with the comments of both your fellow student and the professor, continue to develop and write your essay.

4) When you have a final draft prepared, you may opt to have a classmate proofread your draft. Those who volunteer for extra proofreading will receive extra credit worth up to 2% of your final grade. The due date for turning in final essay drafts for proofreading is Thursday, November 17.

5) Prepare a final version of your essay. The due date for the final essay is Tuesday, December 13th.

A note on secondary scholarship: Literary or legal documents written during the medieval period count as primary, rather than secondary sources. Scholarly sources are articles appearing in peer-reviewed journals and books and essay collections published by academic presses. Wikipedia, dictionaries, encyclopedias, and book reviews are tertiary sources summarizing secondary sources. They do NOT count as scholarly sources. Online sources should be used with extreme care, if at all. If you have questions about what constitutes a scholarly source, please see the instructor.

Essays should utilize at least TWO scholarly secondary sources in addition to the course texts. Essays should conform to MLA or Chicago Manual of Style conventions. They should have a separate, unnumbered title page and be in 12-point Times New Roman font on pages with 1” margins. Please use MLA or Chicago Manual of Style guidelines for citations and Works Cited pages (which do not figure into your page count).

Exams
In-class midterm and final exams, weighted equally, will be administered on Thursday, October 20th during regular class time and Monday, December 19th from 12:00-3:00 p.m. Both exams will be in Murray 208. The final exam is cumulative, but will focus largely on texts from the second half of the semester.

Required Readings
All readings are either in the required books or on Sakai. For easy reference and note-taking, please print out assigned files on Sakai. In some cases, only excerpts from longer texts are assigned.

Academic Integrity
Plagiarism and other forms of cheating have SERIOUS consequences. Be sure to cite your sources in your written work. If you have any questions about citations in your essay or what constitutes plagiarism, please consult the instructor. Rutgers’ academic integrity policy can be found here: http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/
Late Assignments
Assignments may be submitted to the instructor via email. They are due before the beginning of class on the due date. Late assignments will be penalized ½ letter grade per day. The exception to this rule is assignments associated with the peer review process, where late assignments are penalized one full letter grade per day. Any assignment turned in two weeks or more after the due date will not be accepted, and the student will receive a ‘0’ for that part of the course.

Technology Etiquette
You are welcome to bring your tablet or laptop to class. The ability to use tablets and laptops is a privilege, not a right. Please, NO SMART PHONES. Leave these turned off or on vibrate and in your backpack or pocket. Exiting the classroom to take calls is rude and disruptive and will not be tolerated. Laptops and tablets may be used ONLY for taking notes and referring to course texts. Class time may not be used to text, tweet, play games, catch up on email, watch Game of Thrones clips, etc. This is extremely distracting to your fellow students and disrespectful to the instructor. **Failure to use technological devices in a courteous manner will result in loss of the privilege to use these devices.**

Required Textbooks


*All other required and optional readings are available on Sakai under ‘Resources/Course Readings’.*

Optional Textbooks

