



ARTH 303 / HIST 388: Visualizing Irish Nationalism



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Office: Student Union I, room 3141
Office Hours: W 6-7pm

Term: Fall 2014
Time: W 7:20-10:00pm
Location: Robinson Hall B, room 113

Description and Goals

What does it mean to be Irish? Can we discern Irish identity from a flag, a shamrock, a harp, or an image of St. Patrick? This course attempts to answer these questions by exploring the rich visual traditions of Ireland. To aid in our analysis, we will survey historical documents, political analysis, and literature during the long and difficult quest for Irish national identity from ancient times to the present. We will begin with the Irish search for a cultural and linguistic identity in the pages of medieval manuscripts, charge ahead through the warrior symbolism surrounding Brian Boru and Cuchulain, peer over the dramatic artwork and writings of the Yeats family, and end with the visceral paintings of contemporary Irish artists.

Texts and Readings

There are three required texts for this course as well as numerous articles available through the Mason library databases.

Required:

- 1) English, Richard. 2008. *Irish Freedom: The History of Nationalism in Ireland*. Reprint. Macmillan UK. ISBN 978-0330427593
- 2) Moody, T. W., F. X. Martin, and Dermot Keogh. 2001. *The Course of Irish History. Fourth ed.* Roberts Rinehart. ISBN 978-1589790025
- 3) Barber, Fiona, 2013. *Art in Ireland Since 1910*. University of Chicago Press. ISBN: 9781780230368

Recommended:

- 1) Fallon, Brian. 2002. *Irish Art 1830-1990*. Appletree Press. ISBN 978-0862818074
- 2) Mays, Michael. 2007. *Nation States: The Cultures of Irish Nationalism*. Lexington Books. ISBN 978-0739121177

Assignments and Grading

The bulk of your grade will be determined by your performance on the midterm exam, (non-cumulative) final exam, and the research paper. For the research paper you will need to develop and execute an original thesis related to a theme from class (more on this shortly).

Here is how your grade will be calculated:

2 Quizzes – 20% (10% each)	Participation/Attendance- 10%
Research paper abstract – 10%	Final Exam- 20%
Research paper (8-10 pages)- 30%	Optional extra credit- 5%
Class discussions – 10%	

Research paper

Develop and execute an original thesis related to a theme from class.

- Finding a topic: Start by looking at the key concepts and terms from class or that you find in your reading. Think broadly then narrow down to come to your thesis. (Choose something that you will actually enjoy researching.)

For this paper, I would like you to choose one of the following time periods in Irish history and analyze a social, political, or artistic/literary development of your choice that helped to define Irish identity during that period:

- **Medieval Ireland and the Gaelic Resurgence - The late 19th century through 1922**
- **Early English rule (18th and 19th centuries)**
- **The Troubles**
- **1922 through the early 1960s**
- **1998 through the present**

Topics could address: Who are the major characters involved? What other countries or outside influences played a role in this stage of identity formation? How was this time period similar or different to those immediately preceding and following? What were the significant cultural changes or movements involved? What iconic symbols emerged or changed during this period? If you have a specific topic, person, or issue you would like to address, just let me know in your

abstract so I can make sure it isn't too narrow or unwieldy.

You will need to use at least 5 peer-reviewed academic sources: 3 of which cannot be class texts; include at least 1 primary source. MLA or Chicago style (not APA), 12pt font, double-spaced, 8-10 pages excluding bibliography.

- "Draft:" paper abstract, outline, or draft. At minimum, I need to know your thesis, supports, and at least 3 of your references (2 must be books or articles - not websites). Submit on Blackboard.

- Final paper: 8-10 pages (not including bibliography or any images you wish to include). Use a citation style that is familiar to you – in this discipline, that's usually either MLA or Chicago... whatever style you choose, do it correctly. At least 5 scholarly sources. Submit on Blackboard.

Quizzes

Quizzes will usually consist of ten multiple choice questions and two short answer responses. Bluebooks are not necessary.

Final Exam

The exam will be a combination of multiple choice questions and short answer responses. In addition, you will have to write two brief essays chosen from a list of topics. Bluebooks are required.

Grading Scale

A+ = 101 and above	
A = 95 -100	C+ = 77-80
A- = 91-94	C = 73-76
B+ = 87-90	C- = 69-72
B = 84-86	D = 65-68
B- = 81-83	F = 64 and below

Class Policies

Participation/Attendance- The fast-paced nature of once a week class scheduling necessitates attendance at every class meeting. The Mason catalog states: "Students are expected to attend class periods of the courses for which they register. In-class participation is important not only to the individual student, but also the class as a whole. Because class participation may be a factor in grading, instructors may use absence, tardiness, or early departure as de facto evidence of nonparticipation." I will allow you to miss two class periods this semester without penalty. All subsequent absences should be accompanied by a doctor note or other acceptable documentation.

Email- Mason uses only Mason e-mail accounts to communicate with enrolled students. Students must activate their Mason e-mail account, use it to communicate with their department and other administrative units, and check it regularly for important university information including messages related to this class.

Eating/Drinking- Beverages are fine, but please, no eating in class. I will allow a five to ten minute break in the middle of class and you are welcome to snack at that time, but eating during the rest of the class period can be distracting and disruptive.

Cellphones/Computers- Please turn your cellphone off before class. If you choose to bring a computer to class, please limit your use to note-taking. If you find that you are often distracted by personal sites, please let me know and I can send you links to site blockers. If you spend the class time focused on your computer screen and I suspect you are not following the lecture, I may speak to you privately and deduct points from your participation grade.

Disability Assistance- Mason has a wonderful Office of Disability Services. If you are a student with a disability and you need academic accommodations, please see me and contact the [Office of Disability Services](http://ods.gmu.edu) at 703.993.2474 or ods.gmu.edu. All academic accommodations must be arranged through that office.

Writing Center/Academic Workshops- If you need some assistance in writing your research paper or would like to attend study skills workshops, please do not hesitate to take advantage of the resources on campus. The Writing Center is in Robinson Hall A, room 114. <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>
You are always welcome to make an appointment with me to go over your progress in class or request assistance with your papers: I'm here to help.

Office Hours- I am also the Assistant Director of Learning Services in Counseling and Psychological Services. My Wednesday 6-7pm hour is for class concerns only. Email me if you need to meet another day of the week.

Honor Code

Abiding by the Mason Honor Code is essential if you plan on passing this course. The Honor Code, as stated in the catalog:

*"To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, we, the student members of the university community, have set forth this honor code: **Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work.**"*

Extra Credit

The Washington D.C area is host to numerous Irish festivals and events throughout the year. If you attend one of these events during the fall semester, please write a review of the event and discuss any cultural or historical links you noted that are relevant to the themes of the course. Please include your ticket or a program as proof of your attendance. Additional on-campus self-enrichment opportunities are also provided on our Blackboard page.

This review is due by the last day of class and should be 1-2 pages in length.

What I need in your synopsis:

- What did you do/see and when was it?
- How was it related to images, ideas, or themes we have discussed? OR, if you attended a campus event, what was your impression of the event?
- What are your "take aways" from the event - how has it impacted you?

I will be hosting the Mid-Atlantic chapter conference of the American Conference for Irish Studies at Mason. The event will take place on October 10-11. The theme of the conference is Irish nationalism - scholars from all over the U.S. will be on campus to share their research. I strongly encourage you to attend as many of these sessions as you can - they provide a tangible link between our class and the field of Irish studies, but you may also meet scholars who can help you better understand or articulate your ideas for your research papers.

Some good local options for Irish events:

- **Mason Center for the Arts:** <http://cfa.gmu.edu/>
- **Solas Nua:** <http://www.solasnua.org/>
- **Irish Embassy:** <http://www.irelandemb.org>

Useful Websites

Irish History Timeline

http://www.irishhistorylinks.net/Irish_History_Timeline.html

Irish Texts

<http://www.sacred-texts.com/neu/ceit/index.htm#ireland>

National Museum of Ireland

<http://www.museum.ie/>

National Library of Ireland

<http://www.nli.ie/en/homepage.aspx>

Library of Congress Irish History Resources

<http://www.loc.gov/rr/international/main/ireland/history.html>

Trinity College Dublin Irish Art Resource Center

http://www.tcd.ie/History_of_Art/triarc/index.php

A Chronology of Key Events in Irish History 1169 to 1799

<http://cain.ulst.ac.uk/othelem/chron/ch1169-1799.htm>

CELT Library of Irish Electronic Texts

<http://celt.ucc.ie/index.html>

Chester Beatty Library

<http://www.cbl.ie/>

Celtic Ireland:

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/ancientireland/fortress.html>

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/ancientireland/religion.html>

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/ancientireland/culture.html>

<http://www.knowth.com/>

CLASS CONTACTS

(in case you are absent and need to obtain notes from a classmate)

1)
NAME: _____
EMAIL: _____
PHONE: _____

2)
NAME: _____
EMAIL: _____
PHONE: _____

Class Schedule and Readings

General Semester Dates to Note:

- ✓ **Last Day to Add (Full-Semester Course): September 2, 2014**
 - ✓ Check PatriotWeb to be sure that you are registered for this class.
- ✓ **Last Day to Drop (Full-Semester Course): September 26, 2014**
- ✓ **Selective Withdrawal Period (Full-Semester Course): September 29 - October 17, 2014**

WEEK 1: August 27

Introduction to the Course; The Celts: History and Mythology of Ireland's First Inhabitants

Readings: Mays (on Blackboard): PDF pgs. 1-8 (Introduction)
Barber: Introduction: The *Ghost Ship*, Nation and Modernity

WEEK 2: September 3

The Celts: Separating Fact from Myth

Readings: - Moody: Chapter 2
- Green (on Blackboard): Chapter 1: Art and the Artist in Celtic Society
- Chadwick (on Blackboard): Chapter 1: Discovering the Celts

WEEK 3: September 10

Medieval Ireland: Building a Christian Identity

Readings: - Moody: Chapter 3
- Brown (on Blackboard): Chapter 5: Early Christian Ireland and the Growth of Monasticism
- Green (on Blackboard): Chapter 4: Nature in Art: Abstraction, Realism, and Fantasy

Recommended: - Ellis (on Blackboard): Chapter 4: Druids through Celtic Eyes

WEEK 4: September 17

"Celtic Christianity:" Manuscript Illumination and the Cults of the Saints

Readings: - Moody: Chapters 4 and 5
- Green (on Blackboard): Symbolism and Spirituality: From Paganism to Christianity

Recommended: - Shapiro (on Blackboard): VI: The Religious and Secular Grounds of Insular Art

WEEK 5: September 24

Vikings and Normans: Brian Boru and Cuchulain Emerge

QUIZ 1

Readings: - Moody: Chapters 6 and 8
- Brown (on Blackboard): Thor's Hammer and Christ's Cross: The Impact of the Vikings
- *Táin Bó Cúalnge from the Book of Leinster*- in the CELT Library (read as much as you can)
- Jstor article: *The Invulnerable Hero in Celtic Legend*, Ellen Ettlinger, Vol. 42, (Mar. - Apr., 1942), pp. 43-45, Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland

Recommended: - Jstor article: *Motes and Norman Castles in Ireland*, Goddard H. Orpen, The English Historical Review, Vol. 22, No. 86 (Apr., 1907), pp. 228-254

WEEK 6: October 1

The Gaelic Rebellion and Resurgence; Discussion of Papers

PAPER ABSTRACTS DUE

Readings: - Moody: Chapters 9, 10, and 12
- English: Part One
- Nelson (Blackboard): The English Construction of an Irish Race

Recommended: - Jstor article: *The First Unionists? Irish Protestant Attitudes to Union with England, 1653-9*, Patrick Little Irish Historical Studies, Vol. 32, No. 125 (May, 2000), pp. 44-58
- Jstor article: *Power and Society in the Lordship of Ireland 1272-137*, Robin Frame, Past and Present, No. 76 (Aug., 1977), pp. 3-33

WEEK 7: October 8

English Rule: Irish Society and Changing Policies: Rebellion, Famine, and Austerity

Introduction to Research from Jenna Rinalducci, Fenwick Library

Readings: - Moody: Chapters 14 through 17
- English: Part Two
- Fallon (Blackboard): The Romantics and Maclise

Recommended: - JSTOR: *The Imaginary Irish Peasant*, Edward Hirsch, PMLA, Vol. 106, No. 5 (Oct., 1991), pp. 1116-1133

American Conference for Irish Studies meeting in the HUB, October 10-11. Come and enjoy!

WEEK8: October 15

1916: Politics, Civil Unrest, and Legendary Figures

Readings: - Moody: Chapters 18 and 19
- Barber: Chapter 1
- English: Part Three, Section Five

WEEK 9: October 22

Birth of the Republic... now what?: 1916 - 1940

Guest Speaker: Dr. Coilín Owens, Mason Professor Emeritus, English Department. Mini Irish Lesson!

Readings: - Moody: Chapters 20 and 21
- Barber: Chapters 2 and 3
- Mays (Blackboard): PDF pgs. 9-25 (Ourselves Alone)

WEEK 10: October 29

Government Restructuring and Social Control: 1940s-1960s... Isolationism and Identity

QUIZ 2

Readings: - Moody: Chapter 22
- Barber: Chapters 3, 4, 5
- English: Part Three, Section Six

WEEK 11: November 5

The Troubles

Readings: - Moody: Chapter 23
- Barber: Chapters 6 and 7
- McKittrick (Blackboard): Chapters 3 and 4; 7 and 8

WEEK 12: November 12

The Good Friday Agreement and After: Religious Identity

Guest Speaker: Jordan Brown, Mason undergraduate student and two-time URSP grant recipient. Psychology, neuroscience, and the effect of Troubles on personal and social identity.

Readings: - McKittrick (Blackboard): Chapters 10 and 12
- Zuelow (Blackboard): Tourism and The Past
- Barber: Chapter 8
- JSTOR: Group Identity and Conflicting Expectations of the Future in Northern Ireland, Colin Wayne Leach and Wendy R. Williams, *Political Psychology*, Vol. 20, No. 4 (Dec., 1999), pp. 875-896.

WEEK 13: November 19

Identity and Economy: Effects of the European Union: 1970s-1990s

Guest Speaker: Joseph Buggy, Mason Center for Social Science Research.

Readings: - Moody: Chapter 24
- English: Part Four, Section Seven
- Barber: Chapter 9

WEEK 14: November 26

NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING BREAK

WEEK 15: December 3

Ireland in the 21st Century: Modern Irish Identity and the Cross-Cultural Diaspora; Course Review

FINAL PAPERS AND EXTRA CREDIT DUE

Readings: - Barber: Chapters 10 and 11
- Zuelow (Blackboard): Tourism and the Tiger
- Fagan, "Globalised Ireland, or, contemporary transformations of national identity?" Manchester University Press, 2003 pp. 110-121, http://eprints.nuim.ie/497/1/globalised_ireland.pdf
Recommended: - JSTOR: "Ireland's "Celtic Tiger" Economy" by: Roisin Ni Mhaille Battel, *Science, Technology, & Human Values*, Vol. 28, No. 1 (Winter, 2003), pp. 93-111

WEEK 16: December 10

FINAL EXAM in our usual classroom, but 7:30-10:15pm