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# ARTH 303 / HIST 388: VISUALIZING IRISH NATIONALISM



Instructor: Laura McCloskey Wolfe Term: Spring 2021, Online course

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Office Hours: Online (email or Zoom), Tuesdays 11am-12pm



## 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 To aid in our analysis, we will survey historical documents, political analysis, and literature during the long and difficult quest for Irish national identity from ancient times to the present.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 quizzes, 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). In addition to the optional extra credit assignment, each quiz and the final will also have extra credit opportunities.

### Here is how your grade will be calculated:

Quizzes (2) – 20% (10% each)  
Online Discussions (5)- 10% (2% each)  
Research paper abstract – 10%  
Final Exam- 20%

Research paper (8-10 pages)- 20%  
Movie Paper (2-3 pages) - 10%  
Individual Reflections (5) – 10% (2% each)  
Optional extra credit- 5%

## 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

## 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 19<sup>th</sup> century through 1922
- The Troubles
- Early English rule (18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries)
- 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 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.

## MOVIE PAPER

Watch a movie related to Irish history and write a 2-3 page paper in which you summarize the movie and provide your analysis regarding its historical accuracy. Use our class readings to support your argument. Movie suggestions are listed on Blackboard. Please be sure that you have an introduction (with thesis), body, conclusion, and bibliography.

## QUIZZES

Quizzes will usually consist of ten multiple choice questions and two short answer responses. They are open note and open book.

## 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. The exam is NOT open note or open book.

## INDIVIDUAL BLACKBOARD REFLECTIONS

Prompts for individual comments related to the previous or current week's lecture, readings, or course progress will be loaded to the Blackboard discussion board tab. You must complete all 5 reflections to receive full grade points for this category. Reflections should be at least one paragraph in length (7-8 well-planned, cohesive sentences) and clearly demonstrate to me that you are actively engaging with course lectures, themes, and readings.

## BLACKBOARD GROUP FORUM PARTICIPATION

Prompts for activities will also be loaded to the Blackboard discussion board tab. While the course can largely be self-paced, the topics build on each other; taking content week-by-week helps you break it into manageable chunks. There is a good deal of complicated vocabulary in the course – engaging with others while practicing the terms is a great way to build fluency. (It also ensures that you're on target for what will be tested at each quiz.) You must reply to at least one classmate by the deadline for each discussion or you will not receive points for that assignment. You must complete all 5 discussions to receive full grade points for this category.

## LATE WORK

- Discussions and Reflections must be completed by the end of the week listed in the syllabus. You will not earn points if you are absent from class. Reflections can be turned in until the last day of the semester and still earn credit, but discussions can only be done the weeks they are listed.
- Quizzes can only be completed on the dates assigned. If you will be absent from a quiz please make time to take the quiz online or let me know beforehand so that we can reschedule a time for you to complete the assessment.
- Your Paper Abstract and Movie Paper are due on the dates listed in the schedule. Late assignments will incur a 10% penalty for each day they are late.
- Your Final Paper can be submitted for full points any time until midnight on the last day of classes for the semester. No papers will be accepted after that date.
- The final exam will take place according to the University calendar. Extensions will only be granted if you have a legitimate and documentable excuse (doctor note, note from an employer, etc.).

## 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 spring 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. You are welcome to find other Ireland-related events on your own; please email me for approval.

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?

Some good local options for Irish events:

- **Mason Center for the Arts:** <http://cfa.gmu.edu/>
- **Solas Nua:** <http://www.solasnua.org/>
- **The Keegan Theatre:** <http://www.keegantheatre.com/index.html>
- **Irish Embassy:** <http://www.irelandemb.org>

# CLASS POLICIES

**Participation/Attendance-** I have built in numerous participation checkpoints for you in the curriculum: it shows me that you are following the course themes and truly comprehending material. The Mason online 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." Patterns of non-participation in self-reflection or group work will be noted and points deducted accordingly. If you are ill for two weeks or more (consecutively) or you have other personal matters that will require you to frequently miss participation deadlines, you should let me know immediately and provide a doctor note or other acceptable documentation.

**Disability Assistance-** Mason has a wonderful Office of Disability Services on the main floor of SUB I; if you have a documentable learning disability, I urge you to pay the ODS a visit early in the semester. I am happy to work with you to accommodate your needs, but I will need written documentation from the ODS. <http://ods.gmu.edu/>

**Writing Center-** If you need some assistance in writing your paper or would like to attend study skills workshops, please do not hesitate to take advantage of the resources on campus. <http://writingcenter.gmu.edu/>

**Academic Workshops** - Academic Workshop schedules can be found in Learning Services within Counseling and Psychological Services on the 3rd floor of SUB I. <http://caps.gmu.edu/>

**Office Hours** - I will be available on Tuesdays from 11am-12pm. If that time does not work for you, I am flexible – just let me know a day ahead of time when you would like to chat via back-and-forth on email or Zoom.

If you have a request for an incomplete or an assignment extension, I will only address those matters via your Mason email account or over Zoom.

**Email and Course Communication** - It is critical that you have a reliable way to obtain course information. Please be sure that you check your GMU email account regularly or have your GMU email messages forwarded to your preferred email account. If I need to send a message to you individually, I will send it to your GMU email account. Please note that if you have trouble with your GMU email, you can also use the messaging feature in Blackboard if necessary.

## Honor Code

Abiding by the Mason Honor Code is essential if you plan on passing this course:

***"Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, steal, or lie in matters related to academic work."***

Academic Integrity: <http://oai.gmu.edu/>

FAQ regarding the Honor Code: <http://oai.gmu.edu/the-mason-honor-code-2/>

### **Important Mason Dates**

- Last day to add classes: 2/1.  
*Check PatriotWeb to be sure that you are registered for this class.*
- Last day to drop classes: 2/16.
- Unrestricted withdrawal period: 2/17 – 3/1
- No Spring Break this semester.
- Last day of classes: 4/30.

## **Useful links:**

- **GMU Registrar Semester Calendar:** <https://registrar.gmu.edu/calendars/spring-2021/>

## Class Schedule and Readings

**(Each week has an accompanying Module including a Powerpoint file for the lecture.)**

### **WEEK 1: January 25 - January 31**

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

*Readings:*

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

*Assignments DUE by 11:59pm on Jan. 31:*

**1. Individual Reflection 1**

*Optional activity (no points assigned):*

- Post an introduction on the Discussion Board.

### **WEEK 2: February 1 - February 7**

#### **The Celts: Separating Fact from Myth**

*Readings:*

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

*Assignments DUE by 11:59pm on Feb. 7:*

**1. Group Discussion 1**

### **WEEK 3: February 8 - February 14**

#### **Medieval Ireland: Building a Christian Identity**

*Readings:*

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

*Recommended:*

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

*Assignments DUE by 11:59pm on Feb. 14:*

**1. Individual Reflection 2**

### **WEEK 4: February 15 - February 21**

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

*Readings:*

1. Moody: Chapters 4 and 5
2. Green (on Blackboard): Symbolism and Spirituality: From Paganism to Christianity
3. McCloskey: Manuscript Illumination as the Intersection of Theological and Artistic Traditions

*Recommended:*

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

*Assignments DUE by 11:59pm on Feb. 21:*

**1. Group Discussion 2**

### **WEEK 5: February 22 - February 28**

#### **Vikings and Normans: Brian Boru and Cuchulain Emerge**

*Readings:*

1. Moody: Chapters 6 and 7
2. Brown (on Blackboard): Thor's Hammer and Christ's Cross: The Impact of the Vikings
3. *Táin Bó Cúalnge from the Book of Leinster*- in the CELT Library
4. 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

*Assignments DUE by 11:59pm on Feb. 28:*

**1. QUIZ 1**

<b>WEEK 6: March 1 - March 7</b>	
<b>The Gaelic Rebellion and Resurgence; Discussion of Papers</b>	
<p><i>Readings:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Moody: Chapters 9, 10, and 12</li> <li>2. English: Part One</li> <li>3. Nelson (Blackboard): The English Construction of an Irish Race</li> </ol> <p><i>Recommended:</i></p> <p>- Jstor article: <i>The First Unionists? Irish Protestant Attitudes to Union with England, 1653-9</i>, Patrick Little, Irish Historical Studies, Vol. 32, No. 125 (May, 2000), pp. 44-58</p> <p>- Jstor article: <i>Power and Society in the Lordship of Ireland 1272-1377</i>, Robin Frame, Past and Present, No. 76 (Aug., 1977), pp. 3-33</p>	<p><u>Assignment DUE by 11:59pm on Mar. 7:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. PAPER ABSTRACTS DUE</li> <li>2. Individual Reflection 3</li> </ol>
<b>WEEK 7: March 8 - March 14</b>	
<b>English Rule: Irish Society and Changing Policies: Rebellion, Famine, and Austerity</b>	
<p><i>Readings:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Moody: Chapters 14 through 17</li> <li>2. English: Part Two</li> <li>3. Fallon (Blackboard): The Romantics and Maclise</li> </ol> <p><i>Recommended:</i></p> <p>- JSTOR: <i>The Imaginary Irish Peasant</i>, Edward Hirsch, PMLA, Vol. 106, No. 5 (Oct., 1991), pp. 1116-1133</p>	<p><u>Assignment DUE by 11:59pm on Mar. 14:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Group Discussion 3</li> </ol>
<b>WEEK 9: March 15 - March 21</b>	
<b>1916: Politics, Civil Unrest, and Legendary Figures</b>	
<p><i>Readings:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Moody: Chapters 18 and 19</li> <li>2. Barber: Chapter 1</li> <li>3. English: Part Three, Section Five</li> </ol>	<p><u>Assignment DUE by 11:59pm on Mar. 21:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Group Discussion 4</li> </ol>
<b>WEEK 10: March 22 – March 28</b>	
<b>Birth of the Republic... now what?: 1916 - 1940</b>	
<p><i>Readings:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Moody: Chapters 20 and 21</li> <li>2. Barber: Chapters 2 and 3</li> <li>3. Mays (Blackboard): PDF pgs. 9-25 (Ourselves Alone)</li> </ol>	<p><u>Assignment DUE by 11:59pm on Mar. 28:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Individual Reflection 4</li> </ol>
<b>WEEK 11: March 29 - April 4</b>	
<b>Government Restructuring and Social Control: 1940s-1960s</b>	
<p><i>Readings:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Moody: Chapter 22</li> <li>2. Barber: Chapters 3, 4, 5</li> <li>3. English: Part Three, Section Six</li> </ol>	<p><u>Assignment DUE by 11:59pm on Apr. 4:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. QUIZ 2</li> </ol>
<b>WEEK 12: April 5 - April 11</b>	
<b>The Troubles</b>	
<p><i>Readings:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Moody: Chapter 23</li> <li>2. Barber: Chapters 6 and 7</li> <li>3. McKittrick (Blackboard): Chapters 3 and 4; 7 and 8</li> </ol>	<p><u>Assignment DUE by 11:59pm on Apr. 11:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Individual Reflection 5</li> </ol>
<b>WEEK 13: April 12 - April 18</b>	
<b>The Good Friday Agreement and After: Religious Identity</b>	
<p><i>Readings:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. McKittrick (Blackboard): Chapters 10 and 12</li> <li>2. Zuelow (Blackboard): Tourism and The Past</li> <li>3. Barber: Chapter 8</li> </ol>	<p><u>Assignment DUE by 11:59pm on Apr. 18:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. MOVIE PAPER DUE</li> </ol>

4. 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 14: April 19 - April 25**

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

*Readings:*

1. Moody: Chapter 24
2. English: Part Four, Section Seven
3. Barber: Chapter 9

*Assignment DUE by 11:59pm on Apr.25:*

1. **Group Discussion 5**

**WEEK 15: April 26 – April 30**

**Ireland in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Modern Irish Identity and the Cross-Cultural Diaspora; Course Review**

*Readings:*

1. Barber: Chapters 10 and 11
2. Zuelow (Blackboard): Tourism and the Tiger
3. 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](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

*Assignment DUE by 11:59pm on April 30:*

1. **RESEARCH PAPER DUE**
2. **EXTRA CREDIT DUE**

**WEEK 16: Exam Period Begins May 3**

**FINAL EXAM:**

**COMPLETE THE FINAL STARTING MONDAY, MAY 3 (12AM),**

**BUT NO LATER THAN MONDAY, MAY 10 (11:59PM).**

\*Because you have a week to plan for and take the exam, no extensions will be allowed unless you have a legitimate, documentable emergency that precludes you from taking the exam during that entire period of time. Plan ahead and take it sooner rather than later.