

English 356  
January 2020  
Haley Hall 104  
M-F, 1:20-3:20

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Office Hours: M-F, 3:20-4:00

## Dublin, Literary Capital

### Course Description:

In 2010 UNESCO—the educational and cultural branch of the United Nations—named Dublin the fourth “City of Literature” as a part of an ongoing campaign to recognize the world’s most important cultural heritage sites. As the UNESCO website puts it: “Dublin's universities; its vibrant book and publishing trade; its thriving contemporary literary scene; its libraries and its cultural, arts and social scene create a powerful image of the city as a place with literature at its core, and with cultural connectivity at every level” (<http://www.dublincityofliterature.ie>).

This course offers the chance to closely examine Dublin, the center of Irish cultural life and one of the world’s most important literary capitals. Our syllabus primarily focuses on modern Irish literature with the aim of putting Irish writers of the early twentieth century into conversation with those of the early twenty-first. In addition to analyzing texts that feature Dublin’s literary scene, students will have the opportunity to engage in their own first-hand exploration of the city through our study-abroad travels. The aim of our travel is twofold: first, to acquire a sense of how Dublin the place filters into the literature we’re reading in class; and, second, to think critically about how the city has developed an international reputation and burgeoning cultural industry around its literary resources.

### Major Course Requirements:

- participating in class discussions
- taking travel notes
- leading a discussion on Dublin’s “literary capital”
- writing two essays

### Required Texts:

- James Joyce, *Dubliners* (Penguin), Ed. Terence Brown (ISBN: 978-0140186475)
- various readings made available on Canvas (I will distribute the readings for the travel portion of the course as a packet. For all other readings, bring either a hard or electronic copy to class.)

### Important Course Policies:

**Study Abroad:** By registering for this course, students acknowledge that study-abroad excursions constitute a part of graded activity. All study-abroad students must coordinate with the Office of International Relations to complete the requisite steps in order to travel with the group. During the travel portion of the course, all students must adhere to the same conduct code that they follow on campus (<http://www.rmc.edu/offices/student-conduct>). Issues with conduct will be met with judiciary action (which, in severe cases, may include dismissal from the trip). Deviations from the planned itinerary are taken at the student’s own risk. **See also Addendum on Study Abroad.**

**Attendance:** My overall attendance policy is simple: I expect you to come to every class / meeting unless your absence is absolutely necessary. Because the J-term runs on a shortened

schedule, each student is only allowed **one free absence** (note here that I make no distinctions between “excused” and “unexcused” absences). For every class you miss beyond this absence, your participation grade for the course will be lowered by one third of a letter grade. For every class you miss beyond your fourth absence, I will directly lower your final grade. I reserve the right to fail students for excessive absences.

**Class Preparation:** Students need to be in class **on time** and **prepared to participate**. If a student is late to class two times, I will count this as an absence; other late arrivals will result in absences. Being prepared means having the **assigned reading** with you. If you make a habit of coming to class without the assigned reading, then I will mark you absent. Additionally, I will only warn you once about the **improper use of cellphones or computers**; if you continue to use these devices during class time, I will mark you absent.

**Assignments:** You will receive a more detailed description of each assignment when it is time to begin working on it. Always use a standard font (like Times New Roman), and make sure your assignments are double-spaced and stapled. **Late papers** will receive a deduction of one third of a letter grade per day. Extensions will not be granted on the due date, or after the date has already passed. If you foresee a problem with handing in an assignment on time, please come to see me well in advance.

**Academic Integrity:** Violations of the college’s academic integrity policy will result in serious consequences, most likely in the form of academic sanctions. Making use of another person’s writing or ideas without the proper attribution constitutes **plagiarism** and will be treated as such. If you ever have a question about proper citation or your responsibilities as a student, please come talk to me in advance. You can refer to the Randolph-Macon College Code of Academic Integrity in the R-MC Student Handbook, which is also available online through the Registrar’s website.

**Course Evaluation:**

Participation: 20%

Travel Notes: 5%

Group Discussion/Presentation: 25%

Essay 1: 20% (Text “Mark up,” additional 5%)

Essay 2: 25%

**Additional Resources:**

**The Writing Center** is available for students who want extra feedback; it provides free, one-on-one conferences with trained tutors. The center is located on the second floor of the library, and you can make appointments online: <http://www.rmc.edu/academics/academic-support>.

**Students with disabilities** will be fully accommodated in this course. Please let me know right away if you have a need that I can help address. If you have a disability that requires additional accommodation, the Office for Disability Support Services (HAC) can help you register and provide you with other resources.

**My Office Hours** are a designated time for you to come by and talk about your writing and other coursework. I encourage you to make use of this resource, as I can often provide more detailed feedback in person than I can in written comments on your drafts.

**Reading Schedule:**

Schedule is subject to alterations. All readings and assignments are **due** on the date scheduled below.

**I. “No Country for Old Men”: W.B. Yeats and the Poetry of a Nation**

**M 1/6:** W.B. Yeats, “The Stolen Child,” “The Lake Isle of Innisfree,” “To Ireland in the Coming Times” “The Song of Wandering Aengus,” and “The Fisherman”

**T 1/7:** Yeats, “September 1913,” “Easter 1916,” “The Second Coming,” and “Sailing to Byzantium,” and “The Municipal Gallery Re-Visited”

**W 1/8:** Eavan Boland, “Yeats in Civil War” and “Lost Land”; Seamus Heaney, “Requiem for the Croppies”; Derek Mahon, “A Disused Shed in Co. Wexford”; and Patrick Kavanagh, “Stony Grey Soil” (read ahead if possible)

**II. “Dear Dirty Dublin”: James Joyce and the Irish Metropolis**

**R 1/9:** James Joyce, *Dubliners*, “The Sisters,” “Araby,” “Eveline” (read ahead if possible)

**F 1/10:** Joyce, *Dubliners*, “Two Gallants,” “The Boarding House,” “A Little Cloud” (read ahead if possible)

**M 1/13:** Joyce, *Dubliners*, “The Dead”; **Essay 1 Due**

**III. “Our unfenced country”: Traveling in Ireland and Northern Ireland**

**\*\*\*Travel Portion of the Course – 1/14 – 1/26 – reading instructions below \*\*\***

**R 1/16:** read Joyce, *Dubliners*, “A Painful Case,” “A Mother,” and “Grace” before the Joyce Walk

**F 1/17:** read Heaney, “Digging,” “Blackberry Picking,” and “Bogland” before visit to Heaney Exhibit

**T 1/21:** read Sinéad Morrissey, “In Belfast,” “Pilots,” “Photographs of Belfast by Alexander Robert Hogg”

**IV. “The New Dubliners”: Mapping Contemporary Ireland**

**M 1/27:** No class meeting

**T 1/28:** *New Dubliners*, Joseph O’Connor, “Two Little Clouds”; Maeve Binchy “All that Matters”; and Dermot Bolger, “Martha’s Streets”

**W 1/29:** **Group Discussions** on Dublin’s “Literary Capital”

**R 1/30: Group Discussions** on Dublin's "Literary Capital"

**F 1/31: Essay 2 Due**