

**COMS 401.31 L27**  
**Intersections of Irish Art Forms**  
**Spring 2013**  
**Group Travel Study 7-28 May 2013**

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**Course Description**

Artistic expression is crucial to the formation of group identity. This course will focus on Irish print and visual arts, of both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and the ways in which writing and visual art communicate and construct Irish culture. Students will identify and analyze elements of Irish culture in a variety of genres: murals, statuary, architecture, journalism, song, speeches, photography, auto/biography, poetry, drama, fiction, and criticism. The course is anchored in the idea of art as narrative, as the way in which a story is told in both fictional and non-fictional texts of all sorts. We will explore how Irish stories are told in visual and print art. One aspect of that exploration is to read cultural codes, narrative devices that an audience understands as symbolic and semiotic markers.

**Course Objectives**

Students in this integrative study will encounter central concerns being communicated in different modes. They will learn how to apply interdisciplinary theoretical concepts, such as hermeneutics, structuralism, and semiotics, to the interpretation of diverse materials in a limited geographical context. By questioning what a text does, how it does it, and how it relates to other texts, they will develop critical skills with which to draw conclusions. They will see how print and visual works both consciously and unconsciously reflect the values, beliefs, memory, and myths of a culture. An encounter with the Irish in Ireland will help students to synthesize their learning.

**Textbooks and Readings**

- coursepack, available in the campus bookstore
- readings from a variety of genres to the equivalent of 5 books

**Assignments**

Orientation Talks (OTalks)	2@15%	= 30%
Intersections Journal	3@10%	= 30%
Synthesis Project: 2 Parts	10% + 30%	= 40%

## Assignment Descriptions

### **Orientation Talks (OTalks): 15% + 15% = 30%**

Each orientation talk is a 5-10 minute presentation selected from a list of topics and attached to a date and location. One topic will be chosen from a list of print artists and the other from a list of visual artists. Each topic must be explained, analyzed, and situated in the context of this specific course and the Irish Studies program. Talks must not be entirely expository or plot summary, and each talk must be grounded in some theoretical statement selected from Part 2, 3, or 4 of the coursepack. Presentations that do not make data, such as biographical data, relevant to a point will be penalized. They are also expected to be presented at a classroom level of professionalism.

### **Interdisciplinary Notes (INotes): 30%**

Three installments of 1000-1250 words each will be submitted in the Digital Dropbox **12 May, 18 May, and 25 May.**

1. Submit entries, in any order, with a **subject line indicating the focus:**
  - Focus: Poetry+/or Drama and Visual Art
  - Focus: Non-Fiction Prose and Visual Art
  - Focus: Fiction Prose and Visual Art
2. Each entry will discuss **one** of the following topics:
  - assess the relationship between arts and politics
  - evaluate the representation of women
  - discuss the portrayal of priests
  - critically explore the portrayal of Irish identity
  - discuss the extent to which Irish art is more about the future than the past
  - critically examine the relationship of place and identity
  - discuss strategies used to counter the presence of Britain in Ireland
  - discuss the contribution Irish arts can make to post-colonial theory
  - discuss the religious impulse as a feature in Irish arts
  - discuss the exploration of social class
3. The following rules apply:
  - entries should have a thesis statement and must be between 1500-2000 words
  - entries must analyze Irish arts and must use some aspect of theory from the coursepack
  - each entry will discuss a **minimum** of 3 print pieces and 3 visual pieces
  - topics and art works may be used only once in this three-part assignment
  - be mindful of mechanical matters: spelling, grammar, punctuation

### **Synthesis Project: Part I: 10% + Part II: 30% = 40%**

Part I: Complete the project template provided.

Part II: Create a print or visual reflection in which idea and execution are equally important. It is assumed that those who opt to submit a creative or visual art reflection have appropriate expertise and will discuss project parameters with the instructors. Projects must demonstrate learning and understanding of the course and must contain course data and synthesis. Projects are due **18 June 2013** in the Digital Dropbox, **subject lines indicating Synthesis Part I and Synthesis Part II.**

## **Grading System**

In this class, students will receive letter grades in the 4-point scale (2.7, 3.0, 3.3).

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

## **Plagiarism**

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course, and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Taylor Family Digital Library, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

## **Academic Misconduct**

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link; <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

## **Students with Disabilities**

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

## **Students' Union**

For details about the current Students' Union contacts for the Faculty of Arts see  
<http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html>

### **Student Ombudsman**

For details on the Student Ombudsman's Office see  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

### **Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points**

For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see  
<http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

### **"SAFEWALK" Program -- 220-5333**

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

### **Schedule of Lectures and Readings**

Pre-Departure Sessions: 5 & 19 March, 2, 16, & 30 April from 5:00-7:00

In-Field Session: 7-28 May