**P*ROVISIONAL*** ENGLISH LECTURE READING LIST 2025-26

# Second Year Semester 1, 2025-2026

***Students are required to choose TWO of the following four modules:  
 EN2185, EN2166, EN2133, IS2106***

***AND***

***ONE of the Seminar Modules listed below***

***Note all lecture times/venues are subject to change***

## EN2185: STORIES TOLD AND RE-TOLD

The course examines authors’ use and adaptation of folkloric and mythological material in their works.

The course examines a variety of early modernist and contemporary texts alongside earlier materials alluded to or explored by those texts. Romantic Nationalism and the development of Modernism are major themes. The course considers the writing of W. B. Yeats and other authors of the Irish Revival as well as J.R.R. Tolkien, James Joyce, John Updike, and Kazuo Ishiguro.

The course enables students to query the nature of literary production and reception across different time periods. It allows them to explore why authors choose to underpin their works by references to well-known narratives, and, conversely, why

authors choose to revive forgotten legends.

### *Venue/Times:* Wednesday 10-11 in AMB-1023 Mairtin O’Tuathail Theatre AND Friday 10-11 AMB-1023 Mairtin O’Tuathail Theatre

*Lecturer*: Dr Irina Ruppo ([Irina.Ruppo@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:Irina.Ruppo@universityofgalway.ie))

*Texts*:

W.B. Yeats, *On Baile's Strand* (1906). In *Collected Works Vol. 2* (Shakespeare Head Press, 1908) (Available online)

Henrik Ibsen, *Peer Gynt* (1867). Trans. Geoffrey Hill (Penguin, 2016) Other translations (including those available online) are also acceptable.

James Joyce, extracts from *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (1916) All editions

**except** Wordsworth classics are accepted.

James Joyce, *Finnegans Wake* (1939) (Available online)

J.R.R. Tolkien, *The Two Towers* (1954) All editions are accepted. John Updike, *The Centaur* (1963) All editions are accepted.

Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Buried Giant* (2015) All editions are accepted.

*Assessment*: Continuous Assessment (40%); End-of-Semester Essay (60%)

## EN2166: SEDUCTION, SEXUALITY, AND RACE: EARLY MODERN IDENTITIES

TBC  
This module examines ideas about seduction, sexuality and race, in early modern poetry, drama, and prose. The first half explores texts that grapple with race and ethnic identity in William Shakespeare’s *Othello*, Toni Morrison and Rokia Traoré’s *Desdemona*, Keith Hamilton Cobb’s *American Moor*, and Aphra Behn’s *Oroonoko*. The second half explores three great poetic sequences of seduction: William Shakespeare’s *Venus and Adonis*, Christopher Marlowe’s *Hero and Leander*, and Mary Wroth’s *Pamphilia to Amphilanthus*.

Debates about erotic versus chaste love, heteronormativity and queerness, will be the focus. The module will introduce students to current critical theories of gender, sexuality, and race. It will also attend to questions around literary genre: poetic form (erotic epyllion, sonnet sequence), drama and the emerging novel.

### *Venue/Times*: Tuesday 3-4 in SC001 Kirwan Theatre AND Friday 3-4 O’Flaherty Theatre

*Lecturer*: Prof. Marie-Louise Coolahan ([marielouise.coolahan@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:marielouise.coolahan@universityofgalway.ie))

*Texts*:

William Shakespeare, *Othello; Venus and Adonis* Toni Morrison and Rokia Traoré, *Desdemona* Keith Hamilton Cobb, *American Moor*

Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko*

Christopher Marlowe, *Hero and Leander*

Mary Wroth, *Pamphilia to Amphilanthus* (selected sonnets)

These texts are available in hard copy from the campus bookshop and Charlie Byrne’s bookshop. Where open-access electronic editions are available, these will be uploaded to Canvas.

Feel free to source second-hand copies, etc. However, the best scholarly editions (also available on loan from the library) are:

William Shakespeare, *Othello* [ISBN: 978-147257176] Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko* [ISBN: 978-024125162]

William Shakespeare, ‘Venus and Adonis’ (in *Shakespeare’s Poems: Venus and Adonis, The Rape of Lucrece and The Shorter Poems* [ISBN: 978-190343687]

Christopher Marlowe, *Complete Poems and Translations* [ISBN: 978-014310495] Mary Wroth, *Mary Wroth’s Poetry: An Electronic Edition* [<http://wroth.latrobe.edu.au/>]

*Assessment*: Mid-term essay (40%); End-of-semester Examination (60%)

## EN2133: MEDIA, CULTURE, SOCIETY

This course will provide students with an understanding of our contemporary media environment, with attention to both Irish and international examples. Students will learn about the operation of the media industries, exploring both the structure of the mass media and the social context within which they operate.

### *Venue/Times*: Monday 5-6 in AC001 O’Flaherty Theatre AND Thursday 3-4 pm IT250, IT Building

*Lecturer*: Dr. Andrew Ó Baoill ([andrew.obaoill@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:andrew.obaoill@universityofgalway.ie))

*Texts*:

**A Reading List is available directly from the Library Reading List at:** [https://rl.talis.com/3/nuigalway/lists/3C2F9628-549E-02B9-EAFD-](https://rl.talis.com/3/nuigalway/lists/3C2F9628-549E-02B9-EAFD-66E941D311DE.html?lang=en) [66E941D311DE.html?lang=en](https://rl.talis.com/3/nuigalway/lists/3C2F9628-549E-02B9-EAFD-66E941D311DE.html?lang=en)

*Assessment*: 40% - mid-term assessment; 60% - end-of-semester assessment

**IS2106: IRISH ENVIRONMENTAL LITERATURES**

This module explores how literature has shaped, and responds to, understanding of the natural environment in the Age of the Anthropocene. It traces historical modes of writing about the natural world and examines contemporary ways in which writers and artists shape our understanding of the environment today. The module will focus primarily on Irish environmental literatures in both Irish and English languages, and uncovers connections in the global context of world literatures. Irish language texts will be studied in translation. Key concepts to be considered include environment, anthropocene, climate change, petro-capitalism, sustainability, eco-social justice and decolonial practices.

Topics include the following:

- Introduction to Key Concepts in Environmental Humanities - Irish Literature and the Natural World - Traditions and Legacies of writing on the Natural World - Island Literatures: Ireland and Small Nation States - Blue Sky Thinking?: Rethinking our relationship to the Natural World through Literature - Ireland and Scotland: Shared Environmental Literatures - Minority Report: Minoritised Cultures and Literatures of the Environment - Decolonial Literatures: Irish Literature in a Global Context - The role of the Arts in Sustainability Policy - Futures for our Anthropocene?

### *Venue/Time*: TBC

*Lecturer*: Dr. Nessa Cronin

*Texts*:

* The Canadian Journal of Irish Studies 2017, *SPECIAL ISSUE: IRISH ENVIRONMENTAL HUMANITIES*, Vol 40 Ed., https://www.jstor.org/stable/e26333443 Canada
* Derek Gladwin and Christine Cusick 2016, *Unfolding Irish landscapes Tim Robinson, culture and environment*, University of Manchester Press Manchester [ISBN: 978-1-7849-92]
* Tom Lynch, Susan Naramore Maher, Drucilla Wall, and O. Alan Weltzien 2017, *Thinking Continental Writing the Planet One Place at a Time*, University of Nebraska Press [ISBN: 978-0-8032-99]
* Adeline Johns-Putra,Kelly Sultzbach 2022, *The Cambridge Companion to Literature and Climate*, University of Cambridge [ISBN: 9781009057868]
* Additional resources will be recommended.: *Available on Canvas and in the university library.*

*Assessment*: TBC: Continuous assessment and essay

# Second Year Semester 2, 2025-26

***Students are required to choose TWO of the following THREE modules: EN264, ENG203, ENG304***

***AND***

***ONE of the Seminar Modules listed below***

## EN264: STUDIES IN MEDIEVAL LITERATURE

This module introduces students to a diverse range of medieval literary texts, offering insight into the rich and varied culture of the Middle Ages. In the first half of the course, we explore medieval writings including the anonymous lyric 'Ye that Pasen by the Weye'*,* Bede’s historical and religious account featuring 'Caedmon’s Hymn', and Robert Henryson’s fable 'The Cock and the Jasper'. These texts illuminate themes such as spiritual reflection, poetic inspiration, and moral instruction, while also demonstrating the dynamic interplay between oral tradition and written culture.

The second half of the module is devoted to the fourteenth-century alliterative masterpiece 'Sir Gawain and the Green Knight', a key work in the tradition of medieval Arthurian romance. Through close reading and contextual analysis, we will examine central themes such as chivalry, honour, temptation, testing, and Christian piety. Students will consider how the poem engages with the ideals and anxieties of its time, while also highlighting the artistry of Middle English alliterative verse.

By engaging with these texts, students will develop skills in literary analysis, historical contextualisation, and critical thinking, while gaining a broader understanding of the intellectual and imaginative landscape of medieval Britain.

### *Venue/Time*: Tuesday 3-4 in AC001 O’Flaherty Theatre AND Thursday 3-4 AC002 Anderson Theatre

*Lecturer*: Dr. Clíodhna Carney ([cliona.carney@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:cliona.carney@universityofgalway.ie)) and Dr Dermot Burns ([dermot.burns@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:dermot.burns@universityofgalway.ie))

*Texts*:

Simpson, J. editor. *The Norton Anthology of English literature: The Middle Ages*. 11th Edition, Vol. A. Norton, 2024.  ISBN: 978-1-324-06261-5

*Assessment*: mid-term assignment (40%) and final essay (60%)

## ENG203 GENRE STUDIES

TBC  
Reason and feeling warred for prominence during the long eighteenth century, a culturally vibrant time in which many forms and genres of literature flourished against a backdrop of significant global change. Many authors worked in multiple modes of literary expression, producing poetry, drama, and prose during their careers, very often to critique their society’s values and practices. This course uses the anchoring concepts of satire and sentiment to explore the various genres of literature consumed by readers during a period that straddle both the Age of Reason and the Age of Sensibility. The expansive nature of this survey of eighteenth-century genres will allow us to chart the development and progression of various key themes within the period and learn about the important political, social, and intellectual contexts out of which these texts emerged.

### *Venue/Time*: Monday 5-6 in AMB-1021 O’hEocha Theatre and Thursday 12-1pm IT250, IT Building

*Lecturer*: TBC

Texts:

All texts marked with an asterisk \* below will be provided on Canvas

John Wilmont, Earl of Rochester, “A Satyr Against Reason and Mankind”\* Alexander Pope, “Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot”\*

Jonathan Swift, “Verses on the Death of Dr. Swift, D.S.P.D.”\* Susanna Centlivre, *The Basset Table*\*

Lady Mary Wortley Montague, “Saturday: The Small Pox”\* John Gay, *The Beggar’s Opera* (Oxford World’s Classics) Oliver Goldsmith, “The Deserted Village”\*

Henry Mackenzie, *The Man of Feeling* (Oxford World’s Classics)

Excerpt from Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano*\* Assessment: 40% midterm assignment and 60% final examination

## ENG304 CONTEMPORARY LITERATURE

In this course, we will examine literary texts through the contemporary lens or “the here and now”, within Ireland but also across other time periods and places. The course shall focus on the imbrications between literary productions and some of the major issues of our time, illustrating the intersections of cultural ideologies, political thoughts, and aesthetic conventions. Throughout the module students will reflect on a range of current and developing ideas in our rapidly changing world, and on the ways in which literary and cultural formations are emerging in response to these changes. Might we then understand these changes not simply in terms of tropes, but instead as the very production of contemporary culture? We will read a selection of texts from across genres–including novels, short stories, poems and plays – and explore a diverse range of critical and theoretical approaches to contemporary literary culture.

### *Venue/Time*: Wednesday 10-11, Tyndall Theatre AND Friday 10-11 AC001 O’Flaherty Theatre

*Lecturers*: Dr Henry Ajumeze

*Texts:*

Caroline O’Donoghue’s *Scenes of a Graphic Nature*

Morrissey, Sinéad. *Between Here and There*. Manchester: Carcanet, 2002

Imbolo Mbue, *How Beautiful We Were*.

J.M. Coetzee *Disgrace*

Ben Okri, *The Famished Road*

Ella Hickson *Oil*

Secondary Readings:

Brannigan, John. *Race in Modern Irish Literature and Culture*. Upso: Oso University, 2009

Jackson, Jeanne-Marie. *The African Novel of Ideas: Philosophy and Individualism in the Age of Global Writing,* Princeton & Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2021

Assessment: 40% mid-term essay and 60% end-of-term assignment