



Modern Irish Culture Studies (MICS)

Handbook for First Years

Academic Year AY202526

Sem 1 Office Hours:
Tuesdays, 11am-12pm,
or by appointment

Modern Irish Culture Studies (Literature and Music)

BA subject

Information for First Years AY202526

Welcome to Modern Irish Culture Studies (MICS) at University of Galway! This handbook will address some of the questions that you have about Modern Irish Culture Studies (Literature and Music) as a BA subject available to all First Year Arts students, across all programmes. Any other questions, please email First Year Coordinator, Dr Méabh Ní Fhuartháin, meabh.nifhuarthain@universityofgalway.ie.

1. INTRODUCTION

Modern Irish Culture Studies is an integrated, interdisciplinary programme of learning which seeks to explore key aspects of the Irish experience in its historical and contemporary settings. The Centre for Irish Studies is located on Distillery Road, which dissects the old campus from the newer western campus. Modern Irish Culture Studies (Literature and Music) is available as a full BA subject from first year to degree level. Modern Irish Culture Studies may be taken as one of three or four first year subjects, depending upon your programme of study. Students may choose to continue with Modern Irish Culture Studies (Literature and Music) as one of two, degree level subjects from second year onwards (or in the case of BA Connects, also with the Connect specialism).

Further information about aspects of all First Year BA programmes is available at <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/colleges-and-schools/arts-social-sciences-and-celtic-studies/ba-degrees/>

The first year of Modern Irish Culture Studies (Literature and Music) will provide an overview of writing in Irish (studied in translation) and English, and of traditional music and dance from the late nineteenth century to the present. The themes of emigration and migration provide a distinct focus, particularly in the second semester and how these themes are reflected in Irish poetry, fiction, drama, and in the performance and transmission of Irish music and dance from the nineteenth to the twenty-first century.

2. KEEPING IN TOUCH

- Please note that you should only use your University of Galway email address when corresponding with us. You are responsible for checking your University of Galway email and Canvas accounts regularly.
- Follow the Centre for Irish Studies Facebook page and our Twitter to keep up to date with all activities.
- Information from the Module Coordinator and from individual lecturers and tutors will be sent to your college email address or made available on Canvas. Email is the quickest way to contact a member of staff.
- Learning materials will be available online through your Canvas account.

3. OUR TEAM

The Centre for Irish Studies, at no. 4, Distillery Road, will be your virtual and actual academic home for Modern Irish Culture Studies.

Below are the contact details for core staff members in Modern Irish Culture Studies, at the Centre for Irish Studies.

Head of Discipline, Centre for Irish Studies Dr Nessa Cronin, Room 205 nessa.cronin@universityofgalway.ie	Administrator Samantha Williams, Room 101 samantha.williams@universityofgalway.ie
Prof Louis de Paor, Room 202 (louis.depaor@universityofgalway.ie)	Dr Leo Keohane, Room 206 (leo.keohane@universityofgalway.ie)
Dr Méabh Ní Fhuartháin, Room 203 meabh.nifhuarthain@universityofgalway.ie	Dr Verena Commins, Room 204 (verena.commins@universityofgalway.ie)

Centre for Irish Studies website:

https://www.universityofgalway.ie/centre_irish_studies/

4. ACADEMIC ADVISOR

Individual queries relating to modules should be directed to your module lecturer. Alternatively, for all concerns, academic and otherwise your First Year Coordinator is Dr Méabh Ní Fhuartháin, Room 203 (meabh.nifhuarthain@universityofgalway.ie). You will also be assigned a university student advisor upon registration.

5. LECTURES IN MODERN IRISH CULTURE STUDIES AY202526

Attendance at classes provides the best learning experience and class attendance is required. Each class requires student participation, and this will be central to your learning experience. Readings and other learning materials that you will be required to read in advance and discuss in class are provided beforehand. Please note that all lectures start on the hour and finish at ten minutes to the hour.

6. ASSESSMENT

Assessment in Modern Irish Culture Studies is by continuous assessment. Essays, presentations, reviews and other methods of continuous assessment are used including oral and in-class examination. Assessment submissions should include a cover page indicating date of submission, title and student details. Details are provided at individual module level.

6.1 Academic writing

Writing in an academic style is a process of investigating ideas, collating information and presenting a coherent and critical argument. You will be reading and looking at diverse texts which will develop your awareness of different styles and approaches to scholarship. All academic writing requires the author to properly acknowledge the source/s of the information presented through a system of referencing/citation. This is the cornerstone of good academic practice, and all Modern Irish Culture Studies classes will help develop those critical writing skills.

6.2 Referencing/citations

In your essays, quotations and substantive information taken from other works must be acknowledged in footnotes or endnotes, giving author, title, and page number. When citing unpublished sources, students should follow the advice of the module lecturer. A bibliography, listing the documentary sources, books, and articles used (including all those acknowledged in footnotes/endnotes) must be included at the end of your essay. The most common style of referencing used by scholars in the disciplines of

literature and languages is the MLA style. For a useful outline of this follow the link below to Hardiman Library style guide here at University of Galway:

<https://libguides.library.universityofgalway.ie/c.php?g=534782&p=3799183>

6.3 Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is when a student presents the work of other authors as their own without proper acknowledgement or reference. Plagiarism is a serious offence and is subject to the disciplinary procedures of the University.

When a student directly uses an idea or expressive quotation from something they have read, it must be put in quotation marks and the source acknowledged. When a student paraphrases or relies substantially on an idea or construct of a particular author, that too needs to be acknowledged through references. Not to do so is academically dishonest. If you have any question about the difference between scholarly citation, collaboration and paraphrase, ask for clarification.

A full university statement on Academic Integrity is available here: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/academicintegrity/policies/>

6.4 Writing skills support

All your lecturers assist you in developing good academic writing skills. In addition, we strongly advise students to avail of the services of the Academic Writing Centre. This is a free service where students of all disciplines situated in the James Hardiman Library. To make an appointment for online writing support, see details here: <https://library.universityofgalway.ie/awc/>

6.5 Assignment Submission Procedures All assignments must be completed by the specified date indicated by your Module Lecturer. Late submission of any assignment is subject to the following penalties: 5% for part or all of the first week and 1% for each subsequent day.

6.6 Marking system

The marking system in Modern Irish Culture Studies is as follows:

A:	70-100% / 1	B-:	50-59% / II.2	D:	40-44% / Pass
B:	60-69% / II.1	C:	45-49% / Pass	Fail:	30-39% / Fail

Please find further information relating to Marks and Standards here:

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/exams/policies-procedures/>

6.7 Extenuating Circumstances Policy

In line with the University policy on Extenuating Circumstances, procedures are in place in the College to manage applications from students who experience extenuating circumstances that may negatively impact the student's performance in assessment.

Students may apply centrally to the College Extenuating Circumstances Committee if the following conditions are met:

- The student experiences serious, unavoidable, unpredictable and exceptional circumstances outside of their control, which may negatively impact the student's performance in assessment
- The affected assessment is worth **20% or greater** of the final module mark
- Supporting documentation is provided, as outlined in the attached policy
- If supporting documentation is not available, students should submit an application to the College Extenuating Circumstances Committee describing the nature of their circumstances,

and they will normally be asked to meet with our Student Support Officer (Dr Rosemary Crosse) to help evaluate an appropriate course of action.

Students can access our online form here: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/colleges-and-schools/arts-social-sciences-and-celtic-studies/student-information/studentformsandlinks/>

If an assessment is worth less than 20% of the final module mark and/or a student requires an extension of 7 days or less, they should liaise with their Local Year Co-ordinator or Programme Director.

Note: If an extension of more than 7 days is required or an affected assessment is worth at least 20% of the overall module mark, students must apply to the College Extenuating Circumstances Committee to request additional time. Local Year Co-ordinators or Programme Directors cannot grant extensions beyond a one-week window. One application listing all affected modules and assignments should be made to cover the student's full circumstances.

Students who possess a LENS report that uses specific language about the need for 'leniency with deadlines' and who have no additional compounding circumstances are not required to apply to the College Extenuating Circumstances for additional time. Instead, they should liaise directly with their module instructor and / or relevant local Year Co-ordinator / Programme Director to agree appropriate

7. EUROPEAN CREDIT TRANSFER AND ACCUMULATION SYSTEM (ECTS)

ECTS is an academic credit system based on the estimated student workload required to achieve the objectives of a module or programme of study. The ECTS is the recommended credit system for higher education in Ireland and across the European Higher Education Area. The ECTS weighting for a module is a measure of the student input or workload required for that module, based on factors such as the number of contact hours the number and length of written or verbally presented assessment exercises, class preparation and private study time, as appropriate.

The European norm for full-time undergraduate study over one academic year is 60 credits. The distribution of credits for the BA Joint Hons degree is as follows:

First Year	60 ECTS (20 ECTS x Three subjects including Modern Irish Culture Studies)
Second Year	60 ECTS (30 ECTS x Two subjects including Modern Irish Culture Studies)
Final Year	60 ECTS (30 ECTS x Two subjects including Modern Irish Culture Studies)

The distribution of credits for BA CONNECT degrees is as follows:

First Year	60 ECTS (15 ECTS x Four subjects including Modern Irish Culture Studies)
Second Year	60 ECTS (25 ECTS x Two subjects including Modern Irish Culture Studies) 10 ECTS CONNECT subject
Third Year	60 ECTS (No Modern Irish Culture Studies modules)
Fourth Year	60 ECTS (30 ECTS x Two subjects including Modern Irish Culture Studies)

The distribution of credits for all other BA four-year denominated programmes is as follows:

First Year	60 ECTS (20 ECTS x Three subjects including Modern Irish Culture Studies)
Second Year	60 ECTS (30 x Two subjects including Modern Irish Culture Studies)
Third Year	60 ECTS (No Modern Irish Culture Studies modules, denominated subject only)
Fourth Year	60 ECTS (30 ECTS x Two subjects including Modern Irish Culture Studies)

7.1 MODULE REQUIREMENTS IN FIRST YEAR MODERN IRISH CULTURE STUDIES (Literature and Music)

Full module descriptions, syllabuses, and assessment details are available from the individual instructors at the beginning of term and available on Canvas.

Modern Irish Culture Studies (Literature and Music) in first year comprises four lecture-seminar hours per week which will provide an introduction to your studies of modern and contemporary Irish culture. All modules are worth 5 ECTS.

Which modules do I take?

BA Joint Honours (GY101) and four-year denominated degree programme students take all four available modules in Modern Irish Culture Studies (IS1100, IS1103, IS1104, ISSK1100) totalling 20 ECTS. **BA Connect** students take three modules (IS1103, IS1104 and ISSK1100) totalling 15 ECTS.

Where are my classes?

Getting familiar with the campus will take a little bit of time. The interactive campus map, available here will help: <https://www.universityofgalway.ie/buildings/maps/>

7.2 MODERN IRISH CULTURE STUDIES FIRST YEAR MODULES & UNIVERSITY ACADEMIC CALENDAR

Academic Year 2025 -2026	
Orientation 1st years*	Monday 8th September to Friday 12th September
Start of teaching 1st years*	Monday 15th September
End of teaching 1st years*	Friday 28th November (11 weeks of teaching)
Start of teaching all years	Monday 8th September
End of teaching all years	Friday 28th November (12 weeks of teaching)
Study week	Monday 1st December to Friday 5th December
Semester 1 exams start	Monday 8th December
Semester 1 exams end	Friday 19th December (10 days of exams)
Christmas Holiday	Saturday 20th December
2025	
Start of Teaching	Monday 12th January 2026
End of Teaching	Thursday 2nd April (12 weeks of teaching)
Easter	Good Friday 3rd April to Easter Monday 6th April
Field Trips	Tuesday 7th to Friday 10th April
Study Week	Monday 13th to Friday 17th April
Semester 2 Exams Start	Tuesday 21st April
Semester 2 Exams End	Friday 8th May (13 days of exams)
Autumn Repeat Exams	Tuesday 4th August to Friday 14th August (9 days of exams)
Holidays	Easter: Good Friday 3rd April to Easter Monday 6th April 2026
	Bank Holidays: Monday 27th October 2025 / Monday, 2nd February 2026
	Tuesday, 17th March 2026/ Monday 4th May 2026/ Monday 1st June 2026
	Monday 3rd August 2026

* Updated 17th July 2025

Approved AC Standing Dec 2020

SEMESTER 1, Week 1 begins 15 September 2025

Module: **ISSK1100 Introducing Modern and Contemporary Irish Writing**
Time: Monday, 2-3pm (Dr Nessa Cronin) **Venue:** Room 103 Seomra Seimineáir, CIS
Classes begin 15 September
Time: Tuesday, 5-6pm (An tOll. Louis de Paor) **Venue:** Room 103 Seomra Seimineáir, CIS
Classes begin 16 September

Module: **IS1100 Irish Music and Emigration** (year-long module)
Time: Monday, 12-1pm (Dr Méabh Ní Fhuartháin)
Classes begin 15 September
Venue: Room 103 Seomra Seimineáir, Centre for Irish Studies

Module: **IS1103 Introducing Irish Traditional Music and Dance since 1893** (year-long module)
Time: Wednesday, 12-1pm (Dr Verena Commins)
Classes begin 17 September
Venue: Room 103 Seomra Seimineáir, Centre for Irish Studies

SEMESTER 2 Week 1 begins 12 January 2026

Module: **IS1100 Irish Music and Emigration** (year-long module)
Time: Monday, 12-1pm (Dr Méabh Ní Fhuartháin) **(NOTE change of time and day!)**
Venue: Room 103 Seomra Seimineáir, CIS

Module: **IS1104 The Migrant Experience in Modern Irish Writing**
Time: Monday, 2-3pm (Dr Nessa Cronin) classes begin Week 1, Sem 2
Venue: AC215 – Lecture Room
Time: Tuesday, 5-6pm (Laoighseach Ní Choisdealbha) classes begin Week 1, Sem 2
Venue: IT204 Seminar Room

Module: **IS1103 introducing Irish Traditional Music and Dance** (year-long module)
Time: Wednesday, 12-1pm (Dr Verena Commins)
Classes begin 10 September
Venue: Room 103 Seomra Seimineáir, Centre for Irish Studies

*No classes on the following days:
Monday, 27 October 2025
St Bridget's Day, Monday, 2 February
St. Patrick's Day, Tuesday, 17 March

7.4 First Year Modern Irish Culture Studies Timetable, Semester 1

Time/Day	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9-9.50am					
10-10.50am					
11-11.50am					
12-12.50pm			IS1103 Room 103, CIS		
1-1.50pm					
2-2.50pm	ISSK1100 Room 103, CIS				
3-3.50pm	IS1100 Room 103, CIS				
4-4.50pm					
5-5.50pm		ISSK1100 Room 103, CIS			

CIS=Centre for Irish Studies, no. 4 Distillery Road NOTE: IS1100 moves to Thursdays, 12pm in Semester 2

7.3 MODERN IRISH CULTURE STUDIES, FIRST YEAR MODULE DESCRIPTIONS

Code & Sem	MODULE TITLE and ECTS
IS1103 Sem 1&2	<p>INTRODUCING TRADITIONAL MUSIC AND DANCE SINCE 1893 (5 ECTS)*</p> <p>*NOTE: Begins in Sem 1 and continues in Sem 2, 24 x 1 hour lectures, over both semesters</p> <p>This course will survey the development of traditional music and dance in Ireland from the mid-nineteenth century to the present. It will explore the key moments, and leading figures in the movement of these expressive forms from a traditional setting to a modern context and examine the consequences of these changes. In particular, revival, as a process and ideology, will be explored.</p> <p>TEXT: Readings available on Canvas. Texts tbc.</p> <p>ASSESSMENT: Continuous assessment and final essay</p>
ISSK1100 Sem 1	<p>INTRODUCING MODERN AND CONTEMPORARY IRISH WRITING (5 ECTS)</p> <p>This course will provide an overview of Irish writing in Irish (studied in translation) and in English from the literary and cultural revivals of late nineteenth-century Ireland to the present. It will introduce the work of some of the most outstanding modern writers in both languages, with a particular emphasis on the ways in which issues such as gender, nationalism, sexuality, politics, religion and social class are represented in literature.</p> <p>TEXT: Readings available on Canvas. Texts tbc.</p> <p>ASSESSMENT: Continuous assessment and final essay.</p>
IS1100 Sem 1&2	<p>IRISH MUSIC AND EMIGRATION (5 ECTS)*</p> <p>*NOTE: This module begins in Sem 1 and continues in Sem 2, 24 x 1 hour lectures, over both semesters</p> <p>This module will examine Irish music and migration from the eighteenth century to the twenty-first century. In particular, the module will explore music and cultural practices as they evolved and responded to migrant contexts in North America and Britain. The reciprocal influences of Irish traditional practices and American folk and popular music will also be investigated. Finally, key developments such as the advent of music recording folk music revival of the 1960s will be assessed.</p> <p>TEXT: Readings available on Canvas. Texts tbc.</p> <p>ASSESSMENT: Continuous assessment and final essay.</p>
IS1104 Sem 2	<p>THE MIGRANT EXPERIENCE IN MODERN IRISH WRITING (5 ECTS)</p> <p>This course will look at how the experience of migration is represented in twentieth-century Irish writing. While the central focus will be on literary representations of the Irish diaspora, contemporary representations of the immigrant experience within Ireland will also be examined. English language and Irish language texts (in translation) will be considered.</p> <p>TEXT: Readings available on Canvas. Texts tbc.</p> <p>ASSESSMENT: Continuous assessment and final essay.</p>