

## **FS102: W 9: The Irish Writer: Memory and Identity**

Spring 2012

Dr. D'Amico

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Office Hours: MWF: 8:30-9:30 and Wed. 1:30-2:30; Tuesday and Thursday 10:45-11:45. If you cannot come during office hours, just see me after class to make an appointment for a time that is convenient for both of us.

### **Course Description:**

A Study of 20<sup>th</sup>-century Irish writers with attention given to their use of personal and cultural memories to create a sense of Irish identity. Genres covered will be short story, poetry, drama, and memoir. Topics explored include The Great Hunger, emigration, and independence. Coursework will emphasize written communication.

**Objectives:** To participate in a sustained conversation with other academic writers and speakers

To generate a thesis that addresses a clearly defined problem or question

To support a thesis with appropriate reasoning and evidence in a coherent manner

To begin to explore the research process in an effective manner

To consider ways in which the written word contributes to the creation of personal and national identity.

To learn a little about the following writers: Joyce, Heaney, Boland, Friel, O'Connor and Conlon; McKenna

### **Texts:**

Joyce, *Dubliners*

Conlon-McKenna, *Under the Hawthorn Tree*

Heaney, *Poems, 1965-1975*

Boland, *New Collected Poems*

Boland, *Object Lessons: The Life of the Woman and the Poet*

Friel, *Dancing at Lughnasa*

Hacker, *A Writer's Reference*

Course Packet

### **Primary Readings and Due Dates:**

- Jan. 18: Introduction and Review: I will be telling you a little bit about this course, and you will be telling me a little bit of what you did in FS 101.
- Jan 20: Yeats, "Cathleen ni Houlihan" (in Course packet)  
Heaney, "Requiem for the Croppies"
- Jan. 23: Joyce, "Sisters"
- Jan 25: Joyce, "Araby" and "Eveline"
- Jan 27: Joyce, "Eveline" and "Clay"
- Jan 30: "'Little Cloud" and "Counterparts"  
See 19<sup>th</sup>-century cartoons of the Irish (Course packet)
- Feb. 1: Writing Workshop
- Feb. 3: Joyce, "The Dead"
- Feb. 6: "The Dead," continue discussion  
**Paper #2 Due**
- Feb. 8: "Ruins and Remembrance: Images of the Famine"
- Feb. 10: Conlon-McKenna, *Under the Hawthorn Tree*

- Feb. 13: *Under the Hawthorn Tree*
- Feb. 15: *Under the Hawthorn Tree*  
Mary Robinson (former president of Ireland) two speeches (course packet)
- Feb. 17: A few Famine poems: MacDonah, Hewit, and Egan (Course Packet)
- Feb. 20: O'Connor, "Ghosts" and "Deane, "Ghost Story" (Course Packet)
- Feb. 22: Writing Workshop
- Feb. 24: O'Connor, "Guests of the Nation" (Course Packet)  
**Paper #2 Due**
- Feb. 27: Heaney, Poems ("Digging," Blackberry Picking," "Follower, "Thatcher"")
- Feb. 29: Heaney, Poems ("The Forge," "Ancestral Photograph" and "At a Potato Digging")
- March 2: Heaney "Shoreland," "Bogland" and "Bog Queen," "Ocean's Love to Ireland"
- March 5: Heaney,"Tollund Man," "Punishment" and "Act of Union"
- March 7: Writing Workshop
- March 9: Listening to Heaney's voice
- March 12: A little preparation and practice work for first oral presentation
- March 14: Brief Oral Presentation (8 people will present today.)
- March 16: Brief Oral Presentation (7 people will present today.)
- March 19-23: **Spring Break**

**Note: Please notice that on April 16 we will be discussing the film adaptation of Friel's play *Dancing at Lughnasa*. I have placed a copy on reserve in the library; however, you may view this film any way you wish. If you can watch it on your computer or at home using Netflix, that is ok. Just be sure to see it by April 16.**

- March 26: Boland: Poems will be assigned  
Writing Workshop
- March 28: Boland, *Poems*
- March 20: Boland, *Poems*  
**Paper # 3 Due**
- April 2: Boland, *Poems*  
Boland, *Object Lessons* (Specific chapters will be assigned.)
- April 4: Library Day: Searching for useful information about Ireland and Irish literature  
**Meet in the Library, first floor, computer classroom**
- April 6: Boland, Object Lessons
- April 9: Boland, Object Lessons

- April 11: Friel, *Dancing at Lughnasa*
- April 13: Friel. *Dancing at Lughnasa*
- April 16: Friel, *Dancing at Lughnasa*. (Discussion of movie adaptation)
- April 18: Writing Workshop: Avoiding plagiarism
- April 20: Oral presentations
- April 23: Oral Presentations
- April 25: Oral presentations
- April 27: Oral Presentations
- April 30: Review of research paper expectations  
On this day you will also write a brief self-evaluation of your class participation work.

**May 8: Research Paper Due: I will specify a time for you to bring it to my office.**

**Attendance is required.** **Four** unexcused absences will lower your semester grade a partial grade; in other words a B- becomes a C+. If you miss five classes, your semester grade will be lowered a full letter grade. If you miss more than what amounts to two weeks, we have to talk. You are in serious trouble. Here are examples of **excused** absences: an illness, one you can later verify with a note from the health center or doctor; a family emergency, one you can have verified by the Dean of Students Office. Here are examples of **unexcused** absences: oversleeping, cutting class to help a friend get to the airport, cutting class to work on a paper or to study for an exam, cutting class for sports practice, cutting class for a service-learning project. Please notice that you have **three unexcused absences** before the grade penalty is applied. If you know that you are going to decide to cut class for sports or for a project in another class, then prepare. In other words, save those "free" unexcused absences for those other activities.

**Graded Work:**

- Paper #1: 10% (2-3 pges)
- Paper #2: 15% (4-5 pages)
- Paper # 3: 20% (6-8 pages)
- Paper #4: 20% (8-10pages and your own research work required)
- Class Work: 10%
- First graded oral report: 10%
- Second graded oral report: 15%

**Class Work:** By class work I mean the following: daily participation in the discussions of the readings and of the writing samples, very brief oral reports, brief writing exercises, and any peer review work done.

Note on the calculation of grades: I use the college system. In other words, an A is a 4.0, a B is a 3.0, and a C- is a 1.7. I change the letter grades into numbers by following this system, and then I calculate according to the percentages I have indicated above. If the calculation results in a split grade, that is a 2.5 for example, to be fair to those students earning a 2.7 –2.8, I feel I need a clear reason to assign the higher grade, the B- for example and not the C+. For example, if the major paper was a fine piece of work, and superior to your earlier written work, I might be able to justify the higher grade

**Class Participation:** Average to excellent class participation **means more than** simply coming to class, behaving properly (not sleeping and not talking to your neighbor) and looking interested. To receive an average, above average or excellent grade in participation, you must actually speak and contribute in a meaningful way to the class discussion. I should also add that I do take into account the quality of your remarks. You should also feel free to ask questions in class. Sometimes a good question also helps facilitate discussion.

How I evaluate class participation: If you come to class, look interested and stay awake and act respectfully towards remarks made by others, that behavior will earn a D. If you come to class, look interested and have your prepared comments ready (I will sometimes assign questions for you to answer or some small assignment to do) when I call on you or invite you to raise your hand on your own, then that is a C. If you come to class, look interested, have prepared comments ready and are willing to offer those comments in class, **and also volunteer on your own at least once a class** that is a B. If you do all this but also volunteer more often than once a class and have perceptive things to say, that is an A.

**Due Dates:** Unless you have seen me before the day the paper is due to discuss the possibilities of an extension, your papers are due at the beginning of the class hour on the day specified. If a paper is late, there will be a grade penalty. If the paper is turned in later in the day, your grade will be lowered a partial grade. For example, a B will become a B-. If the paper is a full day late, the grade will be lowered a full letter grade and so on.

**Papers must be submitted in printed form. Electronic submissions are not acceptable.**

**The Honor Code:** Remember that you took a pledge to abide by the Allegheny Honor Code. Please read carefully the appropriate pages of *The Compass* to remind yourselves of that code and what you have promised to follow.

**Please pay special attention to the sections on plagiarism.**

You must cite in the body of the essay, not just in the bibliography, not only quotations but all paraphrases as well. Paraphrases must be in your own words, and you must create your own sentence structures. In other words, simply changing a phrase or a word or two and calling the sentence your own is wrong. It is stealing. Even if you cite this stolen language by including a parenthetical note, it is still stealing.

**Getting Help:** See the folks in The Learning Commons, Pelletier Library, second floor.

Allegheny's Learning Commons is dedicated to helping students by providing individual assistance and workshops on writing, public speaking, productive use of computing software, critical reading, effective study, and time management.