

NYU in Dublin 2006
V58.9104 Tradition in Modernity

Instructor: Padraig O’Cearuill
(padraig.ocearuill@nyu.edu)

Syllabus

This course examines the traditional patterns embedded in Irish folklore, culture, language, religion, and cultural and sporting institutions. The course objective is to reveal how such structures and institutions have transformed from their past existence, and analyze the changing patterns of contemporary life in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

The classes will be “as appropriate” in lecture form and in interactive dialogue form. In addition to classwork, students will take part in cultural events and field trips.

- Week 1:** **An overview of Irish Culture:** references will be made to influences such as language, religion and politics, all of which have shaped its evolution.
- Week 2:** **The Gaelic Athletic Association:** an analysis of the cultural and sporting influences of the G.A.A. which was established in 1884 on cultural life and political views in the late 19th century and throughout the 20th century.
- Week 3:** **The Gaelic League and other Irish language related organizations:** the revival of interest in the Irish language, nationalism, political thinking.
- Week 4:** **Traditional Irish music, dance and the oral tradition:** the study of the cultural institutions which promote traditional music and dance. How Irish music and dance have evolved in Ireland and elsewhere among the Irish diaspora.
- Week 5:** **Irish folklore:** it’s current status. The poetic tradition – Irish love poems.
- Week 6:** **Irish Place Names:** Modern Irish art and architecture. Tradition and Unionism in Northern Ireland.

Course Requirements:

Group Work (40%):

There will be continuous assessment on the basis of participation in group work discussions and general engagement with the topics.

Essays (60%):

The essays will be on two subjects of the student's choice arising from the class topics.

The essays will be graded on the basis of demonstrated critical and appreciative skills along the following guidelines.

They should demonstrate critical and informed views based on required and suggested readings.

Required Reading List:

Ireland: A Social and Cultural History, 1922 to the Present – Terence Brown, Harper Perennial
Ireland in the 20th Century – Tim Pat Coogan, Hutchinson Press

Suggested Reading List:

The G.A.A. – History, Marcus De Búrca
Ceol, Cultúr – Last night's fun. Ciaran Carson, 1997
Being Irish – Paddy Logue
A History of Gaelic Culture – Alan Titley, 2000
Modern Art in Ireland – Dorothy Walker
Irish Traditional Music – Fintan Vallely, 1999
Irish Placenames – Deidre Flanagan and Lawrence Flanagan, 1994
Traditional Music in Ireland – Tomas O'Canainn
Bringing It All Back Home: The Influence of Irish Music – Nuala O'Connor, 1991
Culture and Politics in Northern Ireland – E. Hughes, 1995.