

NYU Summer in Dublin

Tradition in Modernity - Irish Culture and History

Each part consists of 2 three-hour classes.

Part 1:

Language in Ireland

An introduction to the Irish language; including an overview of language history, grammar, pronunciation, common phrases, and dialects. Irish Gaelic 's influence on Hibernian English. Other languages' influence on Gaelic. Includes visit to National Museum of Ireland and the National Library..

Part 2:

Irish Music in Irish Culture. Overview of traditional Irish music. An introduction to traditional instruments, musical forms with corresponding traditional dances and unaccompanied traditional vocal forms. Students will learn several songs in both Irish Gaelic and English. Students will learn about the role of song in Irish politics throughout history and today. Program includes local musical performances and/or ceilidh dance depending on availability.

Part 3:

The Government in the Republic of Ireland. Overview of the structure of the Irish government: a look at the different branches of government, electoral process and political parties. Ireland's role in the European Union and in the peace process in Northern Ireland. Includes visit to Dáil Éireann (Irish Parliament.)

Part 4:

I. Northern Ireland: A general explanation of the history of conflict in Northern Ireland since partition in 1921. A look at cultural differences and similarities between the people in Northern Ireland. Includes visits and city tours of Derry and Belfast with talks by local historians.

II. Sports in Irish Culture and History. An examination of the Gaelic Athletic Association, (the governing body overseeing Gaelic football and other traditional Irish sports,) and its role in promoting cultural arts as well its important link with Irish Nationalism. Students will attend a Gaelic football game.

Part 5:

The Irish Media: A survey of Irish media including newspapers, internet fora, television and radio. Students are asked to report on current events with the perspective of varied sources. Ireland in film: an exploration of the way Ireland is depicted in selected films.

Part 6:

Irish mythology and early poetry: a brief overview.

Irish place names and family names. An examination of what is revealed by the translation of names derived from Irish Gaelic.

Archeological view of Ireland: Students visit various archeological sites including New Grange. General discussion of Irish culture unifying course content. Students presentations.

Class meets: Monday, Wednesday at 3:30pm with excursions to museums, libraries, archeological sites and places of cultural or historical significance.

Course requirements: 2 5-page papers on an instructor-approved topic relating to Irish culture.

Required reading:

Ireland in the 20th Century, Tim Pat Coogan, Arrow Press

The Cambridge Companion to Modern Irish Culture, Editors Joe Cleary and Claire Connolly, Cambridge University Press

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