



UCD School of History & Archives

# Irish Studies

## Undergraduate Handbook

### 2011-2012

This handbook is relevant for all students taking modules in Irish Studies. It gives an outline of the various programmes offered, details of Irish Studies modules, and useful information about assessment, amongst other things.



## Contents

1: Information for new students	
What is Irish Studies? .....	p. 3
What careers can I pursue after completing a degree in Irish Studies? ...	p. 3
2: Teaching and Learning	
Irish Studies modules:	
Stage 1: Level 1 Core Modules .....	p. 4
Stage 2: Level 2 Core Modules .....	p. 4
Stage 2: Level 2 Option Modules .....	p. 4
Stage 2: Level 3 Core Module .....	p. 5
Stage 2: Level 3 Option Modules .....	p. 5
Programme Pathways:	
Major in Major/Minor BA degree .....	p. 6
Joint Major in BA degree .....	p. 6
Minor in a Major/Minor BA degree .....	p. 6
Communication with Module Coordinators, Tutors and the Schools .....	p. 7
Blackboard .....	p. 7
Lectures, Seminars and Study .....	p. 7
Writing Essays and other Assignments .....	p. 8
Citation in Essays and other Written Assignments .....	p. 8
Assessment of Irish Studies Modules .....	p. 8
Submission of Coursework .....	p. 8
Policy on late submission of Coursework .....	p. 8
Information on plagiarism .....	p. 9
3: The ECTS Credit System .....	p. 10
4: Core Syllabus .....	p. 11
5: APPENDIX: Option Lists F and G .....	p. 13



## **1: Information for new students**

### **What is Irish Studies?**

Irish Studies is an interdisciplinary programme that examines the variety and diversity of Irish history, society, cultural practice and the complex processes through which Ireland and Irish identities have been constructed. It asks a series of provocative and stimulating questions about ideas of Ireland and Irishness, such as how can we understand the ways in which place, history, culture and society have shaped Ireland, past and present? How meaningful is national identity in an age of globalisation? How do processes of emigration and immigration impact on Irish culture, society and identity? What influence have identity categories such as gender, sexuality, ethnicity and class had on Irish culture, society and identities?

By exploring subjects such as Literature, Film, Archaeology, History, Sociology, and Art History, students will have the opportunity to examine the variety of cultural heritages and traditions, the complex processes of historical and social change and the ways in which environment, landscape and people have interacted over the centuries.

### **What careers can I pursue after completing a degree in Irish Studies?**

The quality of the BA degree is recognised by employers who want well-educated and versatile employees. Irish Studies provides a training that is useful for any career that requires sensitivity to culture and society and an ability to think critically. Examples of possible careers include journalism and the media, tourism, heritage, advertising, the arts, public relations, public service, and politics.



## **2: Teaching and Learning**

### **Irish Studies modules**

#### **Note on core modules**

The university designates core modules as modules which must be taken to graduate or progress in a certain programme. Optional modules refer to modules which students may choose whether or not to take them as part of their degree.

### **Stage 1**

#### **➤ Level 1 Core Modules:**

Irish Studies students take two core modules at Level 1, as follows:

- *Introduction to Irish Studies* (IRST 10010)
- *Introduction to Irish Cultural Studies* (IRST 10020)

Level 1 Irish Studies students also take modules from other relevant subject areas across the BA programme, such as Archaeology, Art History, Celtic Civilisation, Drama, English, Folklore, Geography, History, Irish, Music and Sociology.

At level one, your core modules introduce you to some of the diverse questions, methods and concepts underlying Irish Studies, from a variety of disciplines including Archaeology, History, Sport, Music, Literature, Drama and Film, with the aim of analyzing and interrogating the ways in which history, politics, society, and culture influence ideas of Ireland and Irishness.

### **Stage 2**

At stage two, Irish Studies students choose from a wide variety of modules from several disciplines including Archaeology, Art History, Celtic Civilisation, English, History, Irish, Folklore, Film, Music and Sociology.

#### **➤ Stage 2: Level 2 Core Modules:**

Irish Studies students take two core modules at Level 2, as follows:

- *Irish Studies II: Place, People and Identity* (IRST 20010)
- *Irish Studies Readings Seminar 2* (IRST 30140)

#### **➤ Stage 2: Level 2 Option modules:**

At Level 2, there are two **Designated Option Lists, B & C:**

These two lists provide a small select choice of Level 2 Optional modules deemed to be of particular value to Irish Studies students. Students are therefore required to choose an Option or Options (depending on their **Programme Pathway** – see below) from these **Designated Option Lists**, before selecting any further Options from a longer list provided in **Option List F** (see



APPENDIX). The specific requirements are outlined in the **Programme Pathways** Section. The **Designated Option Lists B & C** are as follows:

**Designated List B:**

1. Reading the story of Ireland: Irish Literature in English (ENG20440)
2. Gender, Culture and Society (IRST 20020)
3. The Study of Folklore: Origins and Development (IRFL20010)
4. Early Irish Hero Tales (CCIV 20050)

**Designated List C:**

1. Irish Painting 1640-1940 (AH20010)
2. The Archaeology of the Medieval Irish Castle (ARCH 20130)
3. Land, Religion, Identity: Ireland 1540-1690 (HIS20130)
4. Studies in Irish Music (MUS20030)
5. The Narrative Art (IRFL 20030)
6. Social Life and Legend (IRFL 20060)
7. Language in Early Ireland (EMIR 20010)

➤ **Stage 2: Level 3 Core Module:**

Irish Studies students take one core module at Level 3, as follows:

- *Irish Studies Readings Seminar 2* (IRST 30140)

➤ **Stage 2: Level 3 Option modules:**

At Level 3, there are two **Designated Option Lists, D & E:**

These two lists provide a small select choice of Level 3 Optional modules deemed to be of particular value to Irish Studies students. Students are therefore required to choose an Option or Options (depending on their **Programme Pathway**) from these **Designated Option Lists**, before selecting any further Options from a longer list provided in **Option List G** (see APPENDIX). The specific requirements are outlined in the **Programme Pathways** Section. The **Designated Option Lists D & E** are as follows:

**Designated List D:**

1. Hero Tales (IRFL 30040)
2. Celtic Ireland (HIS30710)
3. Folk Religion and Belief (IRFL30060)
4. Visualizing Modern Ireland - 20th Century Irish Art (AH30030)

**Designated List E:**

1. Celticity (CCIV30030)
2. The Woman's voice (CCIV 30040)
3. The Irish Experience (HIS30150)
4. Memory and Identity in Irish literature and culture (IRST 30120)
5. The Life Cycle (IRFL 30030)
6. Irish Gothic (IRST 30100)



## Programme Pathways

### **Major in Major/Minor BA degree (60 credits over Stage 2):**

Level 2: Students must take BOTH core modules, a minimum of ONE module from designated option list B, a minimum of ONE module from designated option list C and a minimum of ONE module from option list F, choosing a further 5 credits from either designated option lists B or C or from option list F.

Level 3: students MUST take the core module and choose a minimum of ONE module from designated option list D, a minimum of ONE module from designated option list E, and a minimum of ONE module from option list G, choosing a further 10 credits from either designated option lists D or E or from option list G.

### **Joint Major in BA degree (50 credits over Stage 2):**

Level 2: students must take BOTH core modules, a minimum of ONE module from designated option list B, a minimum of ONE module from designated option List C, and a minimum of ONE module from option list F.

Level 3: Students MUST take the core module and choose a minimum of ONE module from designated option list D, a minimum of ONE module from designated option list E and a minimum of ONE module from option list G, choosing a further 5 credits from either designated option lists D or E or from option list G.

### **Minor in a Major/Minor BA degree (40 credits over Stage 2):**

Level 2: Students must take TWO core modules and a minimum of ONE module from designated option list B and a minimum of ONE module from designated option list C.

Level 3: Students MUST take the core module and choose a minimum of ONE module from designated option list D, a minimum of ONE module from designated option list E, and a minimum of ONE module from option list G.

**NB: Students must take ALL core modules at levels 2 & 3**

*For students currently in Stage 2: If you have already completed IRST 20010, you do not take it again. You must take IRST 30140 to complete your core requirements for Stage 2.*

*For students entering Stage 2: You must complete three core modules during Stage 2. You will complete two of these modules during the academic year beginning in September 2011 – IRST 20010 and IRST 30140. You will complete the third core module during the academic year 2012/13. If you do not complete IRST 30140 in the current academic year, you must wait until the 2013/14 session until it is offered again.*



## **Communication with Module Coordinators, Tutors and the Schools:**

Communication outside of the classroom with Module Coordinators, Tutors, and the relevant School or Schools teaching Irish Studies takes place via your UCD email address, Blackboard, notice-boards and occasionally by letter.

For general inquiries and administrative tasks associated with your degree programme, you should address yourself first to the School of History and Archives' administrative office, K107, which is on the first floor of the Newman building in K Corridor. The School Administrator is Kate Breslin, email: [kate.breslin@ucd.ie](mailto:kate.breslin@ucd.ie)

For questions regarding programme structures, the syllabus or other academic concerns regarding individual modules, you should contact the Irish Studies Programme Coordinator. In Semester 1, please contact Professor Diarmaid Ferriter, [diarmaid.ferriter@ucd.ie](mailto:diarmaid.ferriter@ucd.ie). In semester 2, please contact Dr Ivar McGrath, email: [ivar.mcgrath@ucd.ie](mailto:ivar.mcgrath@ucd.ie)

## **Blackboard:**

Matters relevant to individual modules are normally communicated via email or Blackboard and it is your responsibility to ensure that you take note of these communications.

Blackboard is the University's Virtual Learning Environment. Most modules will have their own Blackboard site and it enables staff to share module materials, to receive essays, and to post announcements, amongst many other things. Once you register with UCD Computing Services, you will receive an e-mail account and access to Blackboard. It is essential that you familiarise yourself with Blackboard. It is possible to download a student manual and if you wish to find out more about Blackboard, please email: [blackboard.support@ucd.ie](mailto:blackboard.support@ucd.ie).

See also:

<http://www.ucd.ie/itservices/itsupport/blackboard-elearning/usingblackboard-forstudents/>

## **Lectures, Seminars, and Study:**

Modules are generally taught by a combination of lectures and seminars over the semester. Depending on the module, each week students attend two lectures or two seminars or a lecture and seminar, each lasting for fifty minutes. In the lectures, staff will present general themes, concepts, and background material, introducing students to the subject and to reading material. During lectures, students should take notes in order to help them focus on key issues and to recall material later on.

Seminars are at the heart of studying at UCD. Students are expected to participate actively in seminars, by debating various interpretations and issues, delivering seminar papers, and analysing documents and key texts. Remember, question others' interpretations, and allow others to question yours!

In Stage 2 attendance at seminars is graded. Seminars give students the opportunity to develop their communication skills, which are essential in many walks of life.



### **Writing Essays and other Assignments:**

Studying and reading are essential but you must also learn to express your ideas clearly and correctly in writing. You will fail to communicate them if they are obscured through spelling or bad grammar, so be accurate in both. Remember that errors cost marks. Read over your assignments when you have finished them and check for mistakes.

Every student should make use of a dictionary. To avoid constant repetition of the same words you are advised to consult a thesaurus as well. Moreover, many books offer guidance on writing English, among them Eric Partridge, *Usage and Abusage: A Guide to Good English* (Harmondsworth 1973), Robert Mohr, *How to Write: Tools for the Craft* (Dublin, 1998), R. L. Trask, *The Penguin Guide to Punctuation* (London, 1997), Martin Manser and Stephen Curtis, *The Penguin Writer's Manual* (London, 2002) and Lynne Truss, *Eats, Shoots and Leaves* (London, 2003).

### **Citation in Essays and other Written Assignments:**

Irish Studies students are required to learn various citation styles, dependent upon the disciplinary requirements of the School to which the assignment is to be submitted. Module coordinators will provide guidance on these matters through the Blackboard site for the relevant module. While this may at first seem challenging, it is an excellent skill to acquire, and essential for anyone working in the field of Irish Studies. If ever in doubt as to the correct citation style to use for a piece of written work, ask your module lecturer or tutor.

Tutors will guide you through essay citation conventions. They may seem complicated at first but will soon become second nature. Remember that the main aim of footnote and bibliographic citation is to make the source of your information clear to you and to your reader. Ultimately, it will greatly enhance your learning and reading experience.

### **Assessment of Irish Studies Modules:**

Each School contributing to the Irish Studies programme utilises a variety of assessment methods in order to test the different skills required of the student, from writing essays and longer research papers to delivering presentations in seminars to formal examinations. For information on the different forms of assessment in each module, you should look at the module descriptors on the Curriculum Information System.

### **Submission of Coursework:**

The individual Module Coordinators will clearly indicate the due date of coursework in the first week of the module. They will also make clear how they wish the coursework to be submitted to them – electronically via Blackboard and a hard copy delivered at the end of the seminar or to their office on a certain day, for example.

**NB:** *All coursework is to be submitted directly to the relevant School responsible for the specific assignment or assignments in whatever manner that School and / or lecturer has previously directed via blackboard or other form of communication. The relevant School and / or Lecturer is also responsible for the return of graded assignments and / or notification of grades awarded.*



### **Policy on the late submission of Coursework:**

Students who are late in submitting coursework will receive a penalty of two marks / grades for each week or part thereof that the coursework is late. For example, a student who delivers an essay three days after the deadline could be marked down from a B- to a C. A student whose work is submitted eight days after the deadline will receive a penalty of four grades.

Where coursework is late due to unanticipated exceptional circumstances (illness or bereavement, for example), students must submit a late submission to the relevant School responsible for the specific assignment or assignments, along with suitable evidence, such as a doctor's certificate. Late submission forms must be submitted before or on the deadline. The submission of a late submission form does not necessarily mean that the School will accept the reason for the late submission of coursework as valid.

Students can download the late submission form at:

[http://www.ucd.ie/registry/academicsecretariat/late\\_sub.pdf](http://www.ucd.ie/registry/academicsecretariat/late_sub.pdf)

**NB:** *The late submission form must be submitted directly to the relevant School responsible for the specific assignment or assignments. The relevant School and / or Lecturer will also notify the student of the outcome of the late submission process.*

### **Information on plagiarism:**

All students are required to sign a form, when submitting coursework, declaring that they have not plagiarised from other people's work. Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of others' work and constitutes academic fraud. It is impossible to assess accurately the work, which has been plagiarised. Penalties range from the re-submission of work, which will be capped at a D+ grade, to expulsion from the programme. Plagiarism does not require intent on the part of the student and the best way to avoid plagiarism is to take accurate notes and to paraphrase the words of the original authors, rather than to copy out large chunks of text. Plagiarism can also be the result of rushed work, so students are advised to begin studying for their essays and other forms of coursework from the beginning of the semester.

It is easy for staff to detect plagiarism, as anti-plagiarism software trawls databanks of previously submitted essays (at universities across the world), websites, and other sources to detect academic fraud.



### 3: The ECTS Credit System

The modularised degree programmes at UCD use the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). A credit is a way of measuring the amount of learning undertaken by a student. Under this system a module size of five ECTS credits is standard across the university. Using ECTS credits helps to ensure that all modules are similar in terms of the volume of learning covered and the academic demands placed on students. For more information about the modular system at UCD please go to [www.ucd.ie/horizons](http://www.ucd.ie/horizons)

#### Grading for Modularised Courses:

All modularised courses will be assessed by means of letter grades and grade points. Your final grade for a module is used to calculate your GPA for each semester and year of study.

#### Grades and Grade Points:

A grade point is a way of converting a letter grade (A, B, C, etc) to a numerical grade. Your Grade Point Average (GPA) is a numerical representation of your overall academic standing at any point in your studies. GPA is most commonly calculated at the end of each semester and at the end of your degree. Your final GPA is based on modules taken at Stage 2. Modules taken at Stage 1, Level 1 do not count towards a student's final GPA.

The chart below shows the correspondence between letter grades, honour classifications and grade points:

A+, A, A -	First Class Honours	A+ = 4.2	A = 4.0	A- = 3.8
B+, B, B-	Second Class Honours, Grade 1	B+ = 3.6	B = 3.4	B- = 3.2
C+, C, C-	Second Class Honours, Grade 2	C+ = 3.0	C = 2.8	C- = 2.6
D+, D, D-	Pass	D+ = 2.4	D = 2.2	D- = 2.0
E	Marginal Fail, may compensate	E = 1.8		
F	Fail	F = 0		

#### How Do I Calculate My GPA?

Convert the grades that you received to grade points (see above).

In each class, multiply the number of credits for the course module by the grade points awarded (for example, a grade of B+ in a 5-credit module is equal to  $3.6 \times 5$  for a total of 18 grade points). Add up the total grade points you have received, and the total number of credits attempted in your classes.

Divide the total number of grade points by the total number of credits; this is your GPA. Your overall GPA is also calculated each semester and posted on your transcript.

#### A GPA Calculation Example:

A grade of B+ is 3.6 grade points. A module is 5 credits in UCD. So,  $5 \times 3.6 = 18$  grade points for that module. If the student takes four modules and receives a B+, C-, A, and D, and each module is worth 5 credits, then the student has earned 62 grade points in total  $(5 \times 3.6) + (5 \times 2.6) + (5 \times 4.0) + (5 \times 2.2) = 62$  (OR,  $18 + 13 + 20 + 11 = 62$ ). four modules worth 5 credits each equates to 20 credits in total. 62 grade points divided by 20 credits results in a 3.1 Grade Point Average (GPA).



# Core Syllabus 2011-12

## Level 1 Core Modules

### Semester 1

#### *Introduction to Irish Studies (IRST 10010)*

An interdisciplinary first-year module which introduces students to the variety of questions, methods, and concepts underlying Irish Studies, with a particular focus on Archaeology, Historical Archaeology, and History. A central theme of the lectures and seminars is the complexity of the processes through which identity is constructed through time, and the module sets out to ask a series of provocative and stimulating questions about ideas of Ireland and Irishness. The aims of the course are as follows: 1) To introduce students to an understanding of the breadth of archaeological and historical knowledge and perspectives on 'Ireland' and 'Irishness'. 2) To enable students to grasp the complex and dynamic ways in which Ireland and Irishness have been conceptualized. 3) To facilitate students' engagement with the field of Irish Studies.

**Coordinator:** Prof. Diarmaid Ferriter  
**School:** History and Archives

**Email:** [diarmaid.ferriter@ucd.ie](mailto:diarmaid.ferriter@ucd.ie)  
**Office:** A101 **Phone:** (01)71688377

### Semester 2

#### *Introduction to Irish Cultural Studies (IRST10020)*

This module will focus on the cultural dimension of Irish Studies and will lay the foundation for elements of the Irish Studies programme which focus on culture, particularly literature, film, drama and art history. It will also offer a survey of key issues in the study of Irish culture through the study of representative texts and practices. Some key themes that will be explored include: The Myth of the West; Dublin in cultural representation; 'Mother Ireland'; Gender and Nation; Emigration and Immigration; Language, Culture and Identity. The aims of the course are as follows: 1) To introduce students to the major questions addressed in current studies of Irish Culture 2) To lay the foundation for students' further work in both disciplinary and interdisciplinary courses in the study of Irish Culture at levels 2 and 3. 3) To develop critical and analytic skills for the study of culture.

**Coordinator:** Dr Anne Mulhall  
**School:** English, Drama and Film

**Email:** [anne.mulhall@ucd.ie](mailto:anne.mulhall@ucd.ie)  
**Office:** J216 **Phone:** (01)7168407





## APPENDIX

\*\*For further details on the modules listed below, please consult the module descriptors on the Curriculum Information System.

### Option List F:

#### Semester 1:

DRAM 20040	Irish Theatre 1950-80
DRAM 20110	Contemporary Ireland On Stage
DRAM 20140	Early Irish Theatre Movement
ECON 20060	Irish Economy
HIS 20070	Popular Protest in Ireland, 1760-1830
HIS 20370	The Kingship of Tara
HIS 20570	Sport & Modern Society
IR 20020	An Ghaeilge Chlasaiceach I
IR 20030	Gearrscéalaíocht na Gaeilge
IR 20050	Iriseoireacht na Gaeilge
IR 20060	Logainmneacha agus sloinntí
IRFL 20020	Material Culture: Farmhouse & Food
IRFL 20050	Healers and Healing
IRFL 20080	Myth and Legend
LING 20070	Minority and Endangered Language

#### Semester 2:

CCIV 20020	Fortunes of Celtic Languages
HIS 20600	Gender, Sexuality, and the Family in Ireland, 1870-1970
IR 20010	Teanga na Gaeilge II [multiple offerings]
IR 20070	Gaeilge na hAlban I (Scottish)
IR 20080	Filíocht na Gaeilge 1600-1845
IR 20090	Nua-fhilíocht na Gaeilge 1940-1970
IR 20120	Litríocht an Bhlascaoid
IRFL 20070	Music and Words: Identity in the Irish Context



\*\*For further details on the modules listed below, please consult the module descriptors on the Curriculum Information System.

## **Option List G:**

### Semester 1:

ENG 30190	Staging the Celtic Tiger
ENG 30200	The Drama of Brian Friel
ENG 30620	Poetry of WB Yeats
ENG 30730	JM Synge & Ireland of his Time
ENG 30820	Theatre of Martin McDonagh
HIS 30120	The Irish Revolution, 1913-1923
IR 30040	Nua-fhilíocht na Gaeilge 1970-
IR 30050	Prós Fada na Gaeilge
IR 30070	An Ghaeilge ar an Scáileán
IR 30110	An Ghaeilge Chlasaiceach II
IR 30170	Filíocht an 18ú Cead
IRFL 30020	Calendar Custom
IRFL 30080	Textual Analysis of the Irish
POL 30110	Conflict in Northern Ireland
SOC 30090	Crime & Society

### Semester 1 & 2: [These Modules are offered in both Semester 1 and 2]

ENG 30140	Seamus Heaney and Modern Irish
ENG 30390	Contemporary Irish Writing
ENG 30490	Reading Joyce
ENG 30520	Reading Ulysses
ENG 30840	Irish Women's Poetry
ENG 30880	Beckett and Twentieth-Century
ENG 30910	Yeats, Joyce, Beckett

### Semester 2:

ARCH 30010	Irish Archaeology Today
CCIV 30050	King Tales of Early Ireland
EMIR 30070	Sean-Ghaeilge
ENG 30900	The Plays of Frank McGuinness
HIS 30190	Sexuality and Society in early medieval Ireland
HIS 30280	Religion & Society in Independent Ireland, 1922-68
HIS 30680	Ireland & Glorious Revolution 1685-1725
HIS 30940	Ireland and her neighbours, c. 1000-1400
IR 30030	Teanga na Gaeilge III Irish 3 [Multiple offerings]
IR 30090	Teangeolaíocht na Gaeilge
IR 30100	Scéalta Rómánsacha 1300-1800
IR 30120	Litríocht na Gaeilge Clasaicí
IR 30150	Filíocht Bhéil na Gaeilge
IRFL 30090	Collectors of Song and Music