Ireland (IRSK)

Course description

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Office hours: Wed 10.30-11.15; Thurs 12.15-13.00 (R207)

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The objectives of the course are threefold. First, the priority is to familiarize students with the main events and people of ancient and modern Irish history. The second purpose of the course is to provide information about Irish culture and literature. Finally, at the same time, the course aims at helping students practice language skills (speaking, reading, writing, and listening).



TENTATIVE SYLLABUS:

- 1. 20 Sept: **Introduction to the course**
- 2. 27 Sept: Geography (outline maps, famous and historical cities)
- 3. 4 Oct: Irish myths and legends; *students' presentations*
- 4. 11 Oct: History I: the Celts, the Vikings, the Norman invasion; *students'* presentations
- 5. 18 Oct: History II: The Tudors in Ireland, The Ulster Plantation, The Potato Famine (*Jonathan Swift: A Modest Proposal*)
- 6. **25 Oct: Mid-term test**
- 7. 1 Nov: All Saints' Day
- 8. 8 Nov: History III: From the Easter Uprising to the Troubles (*Yeats: Easter 1916*); students' presentations
- 9. 15 Nov: Irish Literature: Liam O'Flaherty: The Fairy Goose
- 10. 22 Nov: The Irish in America: Migration: 1846–early 20th century; *George Moore: Home Sickness*
- 11. 29 Nov: Irish Politics, Irish Holidays, Festivals, and Celebration (*students' presentations*)
- 12. 6 Dec: End-of-term tests
- 13. 13 Dec: Missed micro-tests

ASSESSMENT BASED ON:

- ➤ **Regular class attendance** no more than <u>two</u> absences are excused. If you get sick, bring a doctor's note for the very next lesson that you can attend, and your absence will be deleted.
- ➤ **Active participation** during the lessons. You have to work with worksheets on the actual topic and read various short stories (Liam O'Flaherty: *The Fairy Goose*; George Moore: *Home Sickness*).
- **Presentation**: a 20-minute presentation on one of the topics below.
- © Make sure your presentation is **interactive**, i.e. handing out worksheets, using video(s), and combining it with exercises are highly welcomed. I.e., if you choose a film adaptation for presentation, demonstrate it with scenes and compare the adaptations with the original books.

Prepare at least 2 comprehension questions, which will occur in the test. Please, give me a **copy of your questions together with the answers at the beginning of your presentation**. Also, make sure your **sources are listed** on the last slide of your PPT.

PRESENTATION TOPICS:

Lesson 3: Myths and legends: Goddess of the River Boyne; Salmon of Knowledge; The Legend of Finn McCool; Lough Corrib; Ben Bulben; Blarney Castle; the legends of Saint Patrick (e.g. defeating Oisin the pagan hero, driving the snakes out of Ireland, preaching with shamrock, walking stick, creating the Celtic Cross)

<u>Lesson 4:</u> the Celtic tribal life and religion

Lesson 5: Jonathan Swift (Gulliver Travels' music, film adaptations)

<u>Lesson 7:</u> Troubles in Popular Culture (music, film)

Lesson 8: George Bernard Shaw's films adaptations: film vs. books (My Fair Lady, 1964)

<u>Lesson 9:</u> George Moore's film adaptations: films vs. books – Esther Waters (1948) / Albert Nobbs (2011)

<u>Lesson 10 and 11:</u> Irish Politics: Sinn Fein, IRA (cartoons with explanations); Irish holidays and festivals/ Irish Pubs (history, drinks, meals, and unwritten rules)/ Famous Irish people

➤ 2 tests – a mid-term and an end-of-term test based on the worksheets, presentation questions, and uploaded materials. You can find the material uploaded to Moodle.

FINAL MARK AND EVALUATION:

You can collect **100 points** during the whole term:

- ✓ 2 tests (70 points): each test for 35 points.
- ✓ Presentation (30 points): *information* (10 points) is your presentation informative? What sources do you use?; *interaction* (10 points) do you involve your classmates in your presentation?; *creativity/effort* (5 points); *time management* (5 points) (How) can you utilize this relatively short time to teach the others?

② If you fail to obtain 50 points, you will be given an Fx in AIS. Then, you will have <u>two</u> more opportunities to improve your mark by writing a test that will cover the topics of the whole course.

RECOMMENDED LITERATURE:

- Comerford, R. V.: Ireland: Inventing the Nation. Bloomsbury Academic, 2003.
- Foster, R. F.: *The Irish Story: Telling Tales and Making It Up in Ireland.* London: Penguin, 2001.
- Ross, David. *Ireland: History of a Nation*. Geddes & Grosset, 2002.
- Walsh, Ben. The Struggle for Peace in Northern Ireland. London: Hodder Murray, 2000.
- Walsh, Caroline (ed.): *Dislocation: Stories from a New Ireland*. New York: Carroll & Graf, 2003.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions! Enjoy the course!