

- Faculté des lettres et sciences humaines
- www.unine.ch/lettres

Seminar 4: Inventing Ireland (2AN1436)

Filières concernées	Nombre d'heures	Validation	Crédits ECTS
Pilier principal B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5
Pilier secondaire B A - langue et littérature anglaises	Séminaire: 2 ph	Voir ci-dessous	5

ph=période hebdomadaire, pg=période globale, j=jour, dj=demi-jour, h=heure, min=minute

Période d'enseignement:

- Semestre Automne

Equipe enseignante

Professor Patrick Vincent

Contenu

How was the idea of Ireland and of Irishness 'invented' in the last two centuries? This seminar will attempt to answer this question by exploring a selection of Irish novels, short stories, poems and plays, from Sydney Owenson's *Wild Irish Girl* (1806) to Sally Rooney's *Normal People* (2018). We will pay special attention to Ireland's hybrid identity, society, and history, looking in particular at the question of class and gender, as well as at the tension between country and city. After discussing how Romanticism and Modernism idealized Ireland and the Irish in classic texts by Owenson, Lady Gregory, and Yeats, we will then look at works by Joyce, Sean O'Casey, Edna O'Brien, and John McGahern that are more critical of Ireland's rebellion and conservative, inward looking post-independence years, dominated by Church and State, ending with a popular recent novel on young students in present-day Dublin.

The aims of this course are the following:

- To develop students' close reading skills, learned in the first-year Introduction to Literature course.
- To pursue in more depth a specific genre, period, or theme in modern literary history.
- To improve expository and critical writing skills, notably through class participation and through critical essays.
- To improve research-paper writing skills, notably by preparing on oral presentation based on a theoretical or critical article, and by learning how to integrate secondary criticism into the essay.
- To learn about Irish history and culture.

COMPETENCES TRANSFERABLES

oral discussion skills in English
close reading skills
critical thinking skills
general knowledge in history and culture

Forme de l'évaluation

Ev. Interne : one in-class oral presentation (20%), two essays (4-6 double-spaced pages each) (80%, students get one chance to rewrite a failed essay).

Documentation

- Lady Morgan, *The Wild Irish Girl* (Oxford World's Classics)
- John McGahern, *Amongst Women* (Faber)
- Sally Rooney, *Normal People* (Hogarth)

Available at Payot. All other texts will be made available on the Moodle course platform.

Forme de l'enseignement

Seminar : 30% lecture, 10 % student presentations, 60% discussion. Because this course is mainly discussion-driven, attendance is mandatory. More than three unexcused absences can lead to a fail.

Objectifs d'apprentissage

Au terme de la formation l'étudiant-e doit être capable de :

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