



SYLLABUS

IRISH CULTURE AND SPIRITUALITY

Academic year 2025-2026

1. Information about the study program

1.1. University	Babeș-Bolyai University
1.2. Faculty	The Faculty of Letters
1.3. Department	English Language and Literature
1.4. Field of study	Philology
1.5. Study cycle (BA/MA)	MA
1.6. Study programme/Qualification	Irish Studies/Master in Philology
1.7. Enrolment frequency	Full time

2. Information about the subject

2.1. Course title		IRISH CULTURE AND SPIRITUALITY (taught in English)				Course code		LME1116				
2.2. Course tutor					Conf. dr. Adrian Radu							
2.3. Seminar / practical course (laboratory) tutor					Conf. dr. Adrian Radu							
2.4. Year of study		1	2.5. Semester		1	2.6. Type of assessment		E	2.7. Course status		Contents	DS
											Mandatory	DO

3. Total estimated time (teaching hours per semester)

3.1. Number of hours per week	3	of which: 3.2 course	2	3.3 seminar	1
3.4. Total number of hours in the curriculum	42	of which: 3.5 course	28	3.6 seminar	14
Allotted time for individual study (ID) and self-study activities (SA)					hours
Study based on textbook, course manual, recommended bibliography, personal notes (SA)					38
Additional research (in the library, online scientific databases/platforms, or field documentation)					20
Preparation for seminars / laboratory classes/ essays/ projects/ homework/ portfolios and reports					42
Tutoring					4
Assessment (examinations)					4
Other activities:					
3.7. Total hours for individual study (ID) and self-study activities (SA)					108
3.8. Total hours per semester					150
3.9. Number of credits					6

4. Prerequisites (if necessary)

4.1 Curriculum	BA degree
4.2 Skills	Proficiency in English

5. Conditions (if necessary)

5.1. For delivering lectures	• Room with computer and projector
5.2. For teaching seminars/laboratory classes	• Room with computer and projector

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6. Acquired specific competences

Professional competences	C1 Adequate use of concepts in the study of general linguistics, theory of literature and universal and comparative literature C2 Efficient written and oral communication in Romanian and in English C4 Synthetic and analytical, as well as aesthetic and cultural analysis and presentation of literary phenomena in the context of Anglo-American reference culture.
Transversal competences	CT1 Using the instruments of linguistics and literary studies in accordance to professional ethics. CT2 Teamwork; interpersonal communication, taking on specific roles. CT3 Setting up an individual project for lifelong training; achieving training by accumulating information, participating in team projects and in institutional and personal development programs.

7. Course objectives (derived from the specific competences acquired)

7.1 General objective of course	An overview course meant to familiarize students with Ireland and the Irish, the essential aspects of Irish civilization, to allow them to substantiate the concepts of Irish culture and spirituality
7.2 Specific objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To familiarize students to diverse aspects of the Irish state, its history and traditions, and the languages spoken in Ireland To familiarize students to Northern Ireland To familiarize students to Irish art and the current media

8. Contents

8.1 Lectures	Teaching methods	Remarks
1. Land and People Physical features and major cities (Dublin, Cork, Limerick, Galway and Belfast). Population. Religion: The Roman Catholic Church, the Church of Ireland, the Presbyterian Church, the Methodist Church. Religious controversies, sectarianism and contemporary debates.	Participatory lecture, debate, demonstration, exemplification, problematization, pair work and team work	
2. Languages Celtic languages: distribution, characteristics. Gaelic / Irish: type of language, origin and history, characteristics. The current status of Irish: factors for / against the survival of the Irish language. Irish English: denominations, varieties and pronunciation patterns. Hiberno-English.	Participatory lecture, debate, demonstration, exemplification, problematization, pair work and team work	
3-4. History The Celts and their spirituality: way of life, religion, calendar and feasts. Gaelic Irish society: the Brehon Law. Christianisation of the Gaels: St. Patrick and his significance. Monasticism and the golden age of Irish culture. The Vikings and the Anglo-Normans and the beginning of the co-habitation of the English with the Irish. The Plantation of Ireland. Cromwell. The Penal Laws. Daniel O'Connell and the Catholic Association. The Act of Union. The Great Famine: causes, manifestations and effects. Charles Stuart Parnell and the Home Rule Association. The Easter Rising. The making of the Irish Republic and of modern Ireland.	Participatory lecture, debate, demonstration, exemplification, problematization, pair work and team work	
5. The Irish State Name, symbols and national day. Constitution and establishment: The Constitution, the President, the Irish Parliament: the Oireachtas, the Government: Civil Service.	Participatory lecture, debate, demonstration, exemplification, problematization, pair work and team work	
6. Mid-term test		
7-8. Northern Ireland Sectarianism and the Troubles. The IRA and the loyalist paramilitary organisations (UDA, UFF, UVF). Main events in the Northern Ireland crisis and their significance. Northern Ireland on the road to peace: The	Participatory lecture, debate, demonstration, exemplification, problematization, pair	

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Belfast Good Friday Agreement of 1998. Government and status of Northern Ireland. Situation today	work and team work	
9. Education First-level and secondary-level schools. Schools in Northern Ireland. Universities in the Republic: the NUI, Trinity College of Dublin.	Participatory lecture, debate, demonstration, exemplification, problematization, pair work and team work	
10. Irish Life Radio and television. The press. Eating habits. The pub as institution. Traditional Irish music and instruments. The Irish today: way of life and spirituality	Participatory lecture, debate, demonstration, exemplification, problematization, pair work and team work	
11-12. Heritage and tradition The significance of tradition in Irish culture. The Irish farm. The bally and clachan. The Irish home. The hearth. Fairs and gatherings. Patterns. Fixed festivals. Weddings and wakes	Participatory lecture, debate, demonstration, exemplification, problematization, pair work and team work	
13. Student-lead course presentation.		
14. End-of-term test		
Bibliography Ardagh, John. <i>Ireland and the Irish: Portrait of a Changing Society</i> . London: Penguin Books, 1994. Boyce, George. <i>Nationalism in Ireland</i> . London: Routledge, 1995. British Council, The. <i>An Introduction to Northern Ireland</i> . Second edition. Belfast: 1994. Brown, Terence. <i>Ireland: A Social and Cultural History 1922-1985</i> . London: Fontana Press, 1985. Department of Foreign Affairs, Dublin, Ireland. <i>Facts about Ireland</i> . Dublin: Government of Ireland, 1995. Evans, Estyn. ed. <i>Irish Folkways</i> . London: Routledge & Kegan. 1957. Foreign and Commonwealth Office. The. <i>Northern Ireland</i> . London: February 1995. Foster, R. F. <i>Modern Ireland</i> . London: Penguin Books, 1988. Hussey, Gemma. <i>Ireland Today</i> . London: Penguin Books, 1993. Somerset Fry, Peter and Fiona. <i>A History of Ireland</i> . London: Routledge, 1988. Wilde, Lady ('Speranza'). <i>Ancient Legends, Mystic Charms, and Superstitions of Ireland</i> . London: Ward and Downey, 1888. Reprint, Galway: O'Gorman Ltd., 1971.		
8.2 Seminar/laboratory	Teaching methods	Remarks
1-2-3. Irish Land, People and State Representations – Independence and Civil War Ireland: [1] William Trevor: <i>Fools of Fortune</i> and the painful and sacrificial fight for independence. [2] Film screening: "The Wind that Shakes the Barley" (2006) – the dramatism of life and fierceness of guerrilla war against British forces pre-independent Ireland.	Discussions, dialogues, demonstration, problematisation, illustration, working in pairs and groups.	
4. Languages. Representation: Brian Friel, "Translations" (1980) – the chronicle of the obliteration of Irish culture and language in Ireland of the Ordnance Survey of 1833, having as mission to create an Anglicised map of Ireland.	Discussions, dialogues, demonstration, problematisation, illustration, working in pairs and groups.	
5-6. Northern Ireland: Representations. [1] Bernard McLaverty, <i>Cal</i> – life, love and duty against the fear and violence of Ulster sectarianism. [2] Robert McLiam Wilson, <i>Ripley Bogle</i> and (re)configuring Northern identities. [3] Film screening: "Cal".	Discussions, dialogues, demonstration, problematisation, illustration, working in pairs and groups.	
7. Irish Life: Representation. Ciarán Carson, <i>Last Night's Fun: In and Out with Irish Music</i> – the lyrical experience of music, poetry, anecdote and Irish life.	Discussions, dialogues, demonstration, problematisation, illustration, working in pairs and groups.	



9-10. Heritage and tradition – the Other Ireland: Representation. [1] John Millington Synge, <i>The Aran Islands</i> - geography, people and spiritual lore. [2] Lady Wilde ('Speranza'), <i>Ancient Legends, Mystic Charms, and Superstitions of Ireland</i>	Discussions, dialogues, demonstration, problematisation, illustration, working in pairs and groups.	
11-12. Heritage and tradition – the Other Ireland: Representation. [3] The Basket Islands as repository of old Ireland's life and literary tradition in the writings of the Basket writers: • Tomás Ó Criomhthain, <i>An t-Oileánach</i> (1929). • Muiris Ó Súilleabháin, <i>Fiche Bliain ag Fás</i> (1933). Peig Sayers, Peig, <i>A Scéal Féin</i> (1936).	Discussions, dialogues, demonstration, problematisation, illustration, working in pairs and groups.	
13-14. Research presentations.		
1-2-3. Irish Land, People and State Representations – Independence and Civil War Ireland: [1] William Trevor: <i>Fools of Fortune</i> and the painful and sacrificial fight for independence. [2] Film screening: "The Wind that Shakes the Barley" (2006) – the dramatism of life and fierceness of guerrilla war against British forces pre-independent Ireland.	Discussions, dialogues, demonstration, problematisation, illustration, working in pairs and groups.	
4. Languages. Representation: Brian Friel, "Translations" (1980) – the chronicle of the obliteration of Irish culture and language in Ireland of the Ordnance Survey of 1833, having as mission to create an Anglicised map of Ireland.	Discussions, dialogues, demonstration, problematisation, illustration, working in pairs and groups.	
Bibliography: Clearly, Joe and Claire Connolly (eds.). <i>The Cambridge Companion to Irish Culture</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2005. Craig, Patricia (ed.). <i>The Oxford Book of Ireland</i> . Oxford: Oxford UP, 1998. Evans, Estyn. ed. <i>Irish Folkways</i> . London: Routledge & Kegan. 1957. Foster, John Wilson (ed.). <i>The Cambridge Companion to the Irish Novel</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2006. Ganz, Jeffrey. Introduction. <i>Early Irish Myths and Sagas</i> . London: Penguin, 1981. Harte, Liam and Michael Parker. <i>Contemporary Irish Fiction: Themes, Tropes, Theories</i> . Houndmills and London: Macmillan, 2000. Hunt Mahony, Christina. <i>Contemporary Irish Literature: Transforming Tradition</i> . New York: St. Martin's Press, 1998. Kelleher, Margaret and Philip O'Leary (eds.). <i>The Cambridge History of Irish Literature</i> . 2 vols. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2008. MacCullach, Ian. <i>Celtic Mythology</i> . Thames and Hudson: London, 1996. McCormack, W. J. (ed.). <i>The Blackwell Companion to Modern Irish Culture</i> . Oxford: Blackwell, 1999. Welch, Robert. <i>The Oxford Companion to Irish Literature</i> . Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996. Wilde, Lady ('Speranza'). <i>Ancient Legends, Mystic Charms, and Superstitions of Ireland</i> . London: Ward and Downey, 1888. Reprint, Galway: O'Gorman Ltd., 1971. Wright, Julia (ed.). <i>A Companion to Irish Literature</i> . 2 vols. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010.		

9. Validating course contents based on the expectations of epistemic communities, professional associations and of potential employers related to the field of study.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The course content is reflected in a major proportion in the study programs of national and international universities (University of Limerick, Irlanda). The study topics are developed based on the specialized bibliography in the field. Some components of the lectures and seminars were presented at national and international conferences and symposiums.
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10. Assessment (examination)

Type of activity	10.1 Assessment criteria	10.2 Assessment methods	10.3 Weight in the final grade
10.4 Lectures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General knowledge of the subject and its connection to other disciplines The degree of assimilation and use of specialized language and the 	Oral/Written Exam Research portfolio evaluation	Semester works, material portfolio (25%), -direct evaluation (75%) Course mark is 2/3 of

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	proficiency in English <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The required reading and the capacity to contextualize, analyse and interpret 		the final grade
10.5 Seminar/laboratory	Active participation and seminar attendance of minimum 75 %	Continuous evaluation of activity	1/3 of final grade
10.6 Minimum performance standard			
1. Knowledge of the main concepts, recognition, definition and proper use; 2. Knowledge of the specificities of Irish culture and spirituality; 3. The overall vision of the domain; 4. Idea of the interdisciplinary methods used. 5. Using AI tools for generating ideas or discourse is allowed only with the tutor's permission and with explicit acknowledgment. This applies to both class discussions or assessment tasks and examinations. Unauthorized use of AI amounts to plagiarism. According to UBB regulations, plagiarism of any type triggers expulsion from university studies.			

11. Labels ODD (Sustainable Development Goals)

	Sustainable Development
	Quality Education

Date:
9.02.2025

Course tutor's name and signature
Conf. dr. Adrian Radu

Seminar tutor's name and signature /
Conf. dr. Adrian Radu

Date of approval:
14.02.2025

Head of Department's name and signature,
Popa Petrar Petronia

Date of approval
Name and signature of Dean