



## SYLLABUS

### *The Literature of the Irish Diaspora (in English)*

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/MA in Philology   |
| 1.7. Enrolment frequency           | Full time                       |

#### 2. Information about the subject

|  |  |     |   |   |                            |   |                    |           |           |  |
|--|--|-----|---|---|----------------------------|---|--------------------|-----------|-----------|--|
| 2.1. Course title                                  |  |     | The Literature of the Irish Diaspora (in English) |   |                            |   | Course code        |           | 1123/2123 |  |
| 2.2. Course tutor                                  |  |     |   |   | Lecturer ELENA PĂCURAR PhD |   |                    |           |           |  |
| 2.3. Seminar / practical course (laboratory) tutor |  |     |   |   | Lecturer ELENA PĂCURAR PhD |   |                    |           |           |  |
| 2.4. Year of study                                 |  | 1/2 | 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 | 1  | 3.3 seminar/laboratory | 2            |
| 3.4. Total number of hours in the curriculum  | 42 | of which: 3.5 course | 14 | 3.6 seminar/laboratory | 28           |
| <b>Allotted time for individual study (ID) and self-study activities (SA)</b>                       |    |                      |    |                        | <b>hours</b> |
| Study based on textbook, course manual, recommended bibliography, personal notes (SA)               |    |                      |    |                        | 30           |
| Additional research (in the library, online scientific databases/platforms, or field documentation) |    |                      |    |                        | 26           |
| Preparation for seminars / laboratory classes/ essays/ projects/ homework/ portfolios and reports   |    |                      |    |                        | 30           |
| Tutoring  |    |                      |    |                        | 18           |
| Assessment (examinations)   |    |                      |    |                        | 4            |
| Other activities:   |    |                      |    |                        |              |
| <b>3.7. Total hours for individual study (ID) and self-study activities (SA)</b>                    |    |                      |    |                        | 108          |
| <b>3.8. Total hours per semester</b>  |    |                      |    |                        | 150          |
| <b>3.9. Number of credits</b>   |    |                      |    |                        | 6            |

#### 4. Prerequisites (if necessary)

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| 4.1. curriculum |  |
|-----------------|--|

Date of approval  
Name and signature of Dean



|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 4.2. skills | Efficient oral and written communication |
|-------------|--|

## 5. Conditions (if necessary)

|   |  |
|---|--|
| 5.1. for delivering lectures  |  |
| 5.2. for teaching seminars / practical courses (laboratory classes) |  |

## 6. Acquired specific skills

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Professional/essential skills | <p>C2. Efficient oral and written communication (in English)</p> <p>C4.1 Identifying and describing literary trends within English-speaking cultures</p> <p>C4.2 Analyzing literary texts in the context of Irish and Anglo-Irish culture and their relationship with the European and Anglo-American tradition</p> <p>C4.6 Elaborating projects in accordance with specific research norms.</p> |
| Transversal skills            | <p>CT.1. Using the skills and subjects of the language and literature field in full accordance with the norms of professional ethics.</p> <p>CT. 1.2 Applying literary theory and comparative methods for investigating the cultural and literary phenomena in question (Irish fiction)</p>  |

## 7. Course objectives (derived from the acquired specific skills)

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 7.1 General objective of course | <p>Understanding the evolution of the Irish diasporic fiction of the 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> century by means of investigating: the cultural and literary constructs of the Irish diaspora, the territorialization of the Irish experience, the Irish identity as narrative/narrating subject against the backdrop of literary Irish studies.</p> <p>The course will focus on the following problematizing aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>How is the literature of the Irish diaspora expressed by canonic writers?</li> <li>What is the place of diasporic fiction in the literary canon?</li> <li>What was the influence of the Irish diasporic fiction on the Irish literary studies?</li> <li>What were the morphological changes in the construction of the "Irish diasporic fiction" in the literature of the 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> century?</li> </ul> |
| 7.2 Specific objectives         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>knowledge of the main authors contributing to the creation of the new Irish diasporic canon and of the main features of their writing</li> <li>the capacity of contextualizing/analyzing a text through its belonging to the aesthetic trends defining Irish culture in the 19<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> century.</li> <li>the critical analysis of elements pertaining to the theory of migration and exile.</li> </ul>   |



## 8. Contents

| 8.1 Lectures  | Teaching methods                               | Remarks |
|---|--|---------|
| 1. Introductory lectures: canon, canonicity and the “novel of the nation”   | Enhanced lecture                               |         |
| 2. Introductory lectures: canon, canonicity and the “novel of the nation” - imagined communities, post-Joycean literature, iconoclasm, experimentalism  | Enhanced lecture                               |         |
| 3. Irish-American literature: <i>replicating</i> Ireland, stories of dislocation  | Interactive lecture                            |         |
| 4. Irish-American literature: <i>reinventing</i> Ireland, ambiguity and uncertainty   | Interactive lecture                            |         |
| 5. Versions of Anglo-Irish exile (1)  | Interactive lecture                            |         |
| 6. Versions of Anglo-Irish exile (2)  | Interactive lecture                            |         |
| 7. Forms of reconstruction: the prose of Northern Ireland (1)   | Interactive lecture                            |         |
| 8. Forms of reconstruction: the prose of Northern Ireland (2)   | Interactive lecture                            |         |
| 9. Forms of internal exile: Irish-Canadian literature (1)   | Interactive lecture                            |         |
| 10. Forms of internal exile: Irish-Canadian literature (2)  | Interactive lecture                            |         |
| 11. Diasporic Irish fiction: narrative shifts (1)   | Interactive lecture                            |         |
| 12. Diasporic Irish fiction: narrative shifts (2)   | Interactive lecture                            |         |
| 13. New directions in contemporary diasporic writing  | Interactive lecture                            |         |
| 14. Round table   | debates, dialogues                             |         |
| <b>Bibliography</b><br>Dowd, Cristopher (2011) <i>The Construction of Irish Identity in American Literature</i> , NY: Routledge<br>Foster, R.F. (2002) <i>The Irish Story: Telling Tales and Making it up in Ireland</i> (Oxford: Oxford University Press<br>Kiberd, Declan (1996) <i>Inventing Ireland: The Literature of the Modern Nation</i> , London: Vintage Books, Random House;<br>McWilliam, Ellis (2013) <i>Women and Exile in Contemporary Irish Fiction</i> , NY: Palgrave, Macmillan |  |         |
| 8.2 Seminars  | Teaching methods                               | Remarks |
| 1. Irish diasporic fiction – selection of text analyses (1)   | Discussion dialogues, problematizing, examples |         |
| 2. Irish diasporic fiction – selection of text analyses (1)   | Discussion dialogues, problematizing, examples |         |
| 3. Colm Toibin – <i>The South</i>   | Seminar presentations, debates, discussion     |         |
| 4. Colm Toibin – <i>Brooklyn</i>  | Seminar presentations, debates, discussion     |         |
| 5. William Trevor – <i>The Story of Lucy Gault</i>  | Seminar presentations, debates, discussion     |         |
| 6. William Trevor – <i>The Story of Lucy Gault</i>  | Seminar presentations, debates, discussion     |         |
| 7. Seamus Deane – <i>Reading in the Dark</i>  | Seminar presentations, debates, discussion     |         |
| 8. Robert McLiam Wilson – <i>Eureka Street</i>  | Seminar presentations, debates, discussion     |         |
| 9. Emma Donoghue – <i>Room</i>  | Seminar presentations, debates, discussion     |         |
| 10. Emma Donoghue – <i>Astray</i>   | Seminar presentations, debates, discussion     |         |



|  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| 11. Colum McCann – <i>Let the Great World Spin</i>       | Seminar presentations, debates, discussion     |  |
| 12. Colum McCann – <i>TransAtlantic</i>                  | Seminar presentations, debates, discussion     |  |
| 13. Short prose (selection provided by the course tutor) | discussion dialogues, problematizing, examples |  |
| 14. Round table  | debates, discussion                            |  |

#### Bibliography

C. Toibin (2012) *The South*, Scribner Book Company  
C. Toibin (2010) *Brooklyn*, NY: Simon&Schuster  
W. Trevor (2002) *The Story of Lucy Gault*, NY: Penguin Books  
S. Deane (1997) *Reading in the Dark*, NY: Vintage International  
R. McLiam Wilson (1996) *Eureka Street*, London: Vintage  
E. Donoghue (2011) *Room*, London, UK: Picador  
E. Donoghue (2012) *Astray*, London, UK: Picador  
C. McCann (2009) *Let the Great World Spin*, London, Oxford, NY: Bloomsbury  
C. McCann (2013) *TransAtlantic*, London: Bloomsbury

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

The course is addressed to MA students interested in understanding the wider historical, socio-cultural context defined by the content of the topics listed below and included in the MA programme. Through both the course and the seminar format, *Irish fiction* is aimed at fostering critical thinking, developing the students' capacity to apply critical readings and assessment of texts and to carry out research within the ethical framework of oral and written communication.

#### 10. Assessment (examination)



| Type of activity                | 10.1 Assessment criteria  | 10.2 Assessment methods                 | 10.3 Weight in the final grade |
|---------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------|
| 10.4 Lecture                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Efficient written communication</li> <li>Text interpretation and analysis skills</li> <li>The ability to manage cultural and scientific discourse in an adequate manner</li> <li>Efficient oral communication</li> </ul> | Active participation in class           | 10%                            |
|                                 |   | Active participation in the round table | 40%                            |
| 10.5 Seminar                    | The capacity to analyze, contextualize and interpret literary texts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Efficient oral communication</li> </ul>  | Seminar presentation                    | 50%                            |
| 10.6 Basic performance standard |   |   |                                |



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Organizational details, exceptional situation management:


### 11. Labels ODD (Sustainable Development Goals)

|   |   |
|---|---|
|  | General label for Sustainable Development |
|  |   |


Date:  
11.02.2025

Course tutor's name and signature

ELENA PĂCURAR



Seminar tutor's name and signature,  
ELENA PĂCURAR



Date of approval:  
14.02.2025

Head of Department's name and signature,

Popa Petrar Petronia



Date of approval  
Name and signature of Dean