

Modernism and the Irish Literary Revival (ENGL 361-01)

College of the Holy Cross, Fall 2005
Stein 215 -- WF 12:30-1:45 pm

Instructor: Paige Reynolds
Office Hours: Fenwick 230, W 3:30-4:30 or by appointment
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Required Texts:

Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Grey* (Bantam)
James Joyce, *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (Penguin)
Liam O'Flaherty, *The Informer* (Harcourt Brace)
Elizabeth Bowen, *The Last September* (Anchor)
Samuel Beckett, *Endgame* (Grove)
Modern Irish Drama, ed. John Harrington (Norton)
New Oxford Book of Irish Poetry, ed. Thomas Kinsella (Oxford)
ERES Password: ENGL361

Objectives: In this class, we will explore the tension between the two discourses of national identity that characterized the literary culture of early twentieth-century Ireland. The revivalists argued that "Irishness" was an inherent part of Irish identity, while the modernists maintained that "Irishness" was a construct, a performance staged by individuals. To understand these two models of identity, we will begin the course by reading the myths, histories, and political rhetoric embraced by the early writers of the Irish Literary Revival. We'll place these texts in conversation with modernist texts that represent identity as a performance. As we think about the relationship between revivalism and modernism, we will read work by early twentieth-century Irish authors to explore the ways in which Irish modernism suggests Irish identity is both authentic and performed – and what that might mean to the nation.

Requirements:

Participation and Preparation (10%). Come to class with questions, puzzles, observations, and other responses to the text at hand. Work to weave your responses to an individual text into the other texts that we'll read this semester. Obviously, this means you must read closely and critically. If it becomes clear that you have not read and cannot enter into the discussion, this will bode ill for your grade.

Papers (short papers 20% each, final paper 30%). During the semester, you will write two short papers (4-5 pgs) on particular questions related to texts we've discussed in class. Your final paper will be a significant analysis of any text we've read this semester. The final paper should be about 10 pages, typed, double-spaced. It must adhere to MLA guidelines. If you don't know what those are, buy a stylebook. I recommend Diana Hacker's *Writer's Reference*, which is available at the college bookstore.

Presentation (20%). You will be responsible for finding a contemporary Irish cultural text that reflects the themes of "being and performing" that drive the class and explaining this material to the class in a presentation scheduled on one of two days of the semester. You'll need to provide a short written summary of the presentation, along with your bibliography. Details to follow.

Conferences. Plan to meet with me during office hours at least once this semester. Also, please feel free to talk with me about reading or writing during office hours.

Absences. You must attend every class. Any unexcused absence will lower your grade. If you have a genuine emergency/illness or you discuss the absence with me in advance, we will discuss your options.

Final Grade. Your final grade is composed of the following: two short papers (40%), presentation (20%), final paper (30%), class participation (10%).

Reading Schedule:

W 8/31 Introduction

F 9/2 Revivalism: Forgaill, "A Poem in Praise of Colum Cille" (OIV 3-9); Anonymous, "The Hag of Béara" (OIV 23-27); Feiritéar, "Lay Your Weapons Down, Young Lady" (OIV 170-171); Ni Chonaill, from *The Lament for Art Ó Laoghaire* (OIV 219-221); Merriman, *The Midnight Court* (OIV 222-246); Gregory "Appearances"; from *The Kiltartan History Book*; from *Cuchulain of Muirthemne* (ERES).

W 9/7 Revivalism: Moore (OIV 267-272); Mangan (OIV 273-287); Ferguson (OIV 288-302); Davis (OIV 303-305) and "Our National Language" (ERES); Lady Wilde, "The Famine Year"; Emily Lawless, "After Aughrim"; Katharine Tynan, "Any Woman"; Dora Sigerson, "A Vagrant Heart" (ERES).

F 9/9 Modernism: Veblen, from "Theory of the Leisure Class"; Baudelaire, from "The Painter of Modern Life"; Futurists, "The Variety Theatre"; Brecht, "Short Description of a New Technique of Acting which Produces an Alienation Effect" (ERES).

W 9/14 Modernism: Eliot, "Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock"; Hurston, "Characteristics of Negro Expression"; Stein, from "Composition as Explanation" (ERES).

F 9/15 Revivalism/Modernism: Hyde, "The Necessity for De-Anglicising Ireland"; Gregory, "Ireland, Real and Ideal" (ERES).

Paper 1 Due

W 9/21 Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Grey* (intro, ch. 1-11)

F 9/23 Wilde, *Dorian Grey* (ch. 12-20)

W 9/28 Folk Poems in Irish and Ballads in English (OIV 249-263); Mary Butler "Irishwomen and the Home Language" (ERES); D. P. Moran, "The Philosophy of Irish Ireland" (ERES).

F 9/30 The Dramatic Movement (MID 377-398, 406-408); Yeats and Gregory, *Cathleen ni Houlihan* (MID 3-11); Synge, *Riders to the Sea* (MID 63-72); Gregory, *Spreading the News* (MID 40-53).

W 10/5 Synge, *The Playboy of the Western World* (MID 73-118).

F 10/7 Synge, *Playboy*.

M 10/10 Columbus Day Break

W 10/12 Joyce, *Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man* (ch. 1-2)

F 10/14 Joyce, *Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man* (ch. 3-4)

W 10/19 Joyce, *Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man* (ch. 5); Emer Nolan, "Portrait of an Aesthete" (ERES)

F 10/21 Shaw, *John Bull's Other Island* (MID 119-203).

M 10/24 Paper Two Due

W 10/26 Yeats (OIV 309-315); Pearse, "Renunciation" (OIV 319); Ledwidge, "Thomas MacDonagh" (OIV 324-325); Proclamation of the Irish Republic (ERES).

F 10/28 **Presentations:** Themes of Being and Performing in Contemporary Irish Culture

T 11/1 **Screening:** *Juno and the Paycock*. Dir. Alfred Hitchcock. 1930.

W 11/2 O'Casey, *Juno and the Paycock*.(MID 204-254).

F 11/4 O'Flaherty, *The Informer* (ch. 1-8)

W 11/9 O'Flaherty, *The Informer* (ch. 9-18)

F 11/11 **Presentations:** Themes of Being and Performing in Contemporary Irish Culture

W 11/16 Bowen, *The Last September* (Parts One and Two)

F 11/18 Bowen, *Last September* (Part Three)

M 11/21 **Paper Three Due**

W 11/23 Thanksgiving Break, no class

F 11/25 Thanksgiving Break, no class

W 11/30 Beckett, *Endgame*

F 12/2 Clarke (OIV 324-332); Kavanagh (OIV 333-335); Murphy (OIV 362-366)