

COURSE SPECIFICATION
DOCUMENT

Academic School/Department:	CASS
Programme:	Performance and Theatre Arts
FHEQ Level:	6
Course Title:	Irish Drama: The Troubles and Beyond
Course Code:	THR 6225
Course Leader:	Michael Barclay
Student Engagement Hours:	120
Lectures:	33
Theatre visits:	12
Independent / Guided Learning:	75
Semester:	Fall/Spring
Credits:	12 UK CATS credits 6 ECTS credits 3 US credits

Course Description:

Surveys Irish drama from the 1890s to the present day. It shows how Ireland's history has shaped its drama, with many plays from the last 30 years using historical material to explore the country's current problems. However, there is a refreshing amount of new wave Irish drama, which concentrates on the new Ireland that has emerged in the last decade.

Prerequisites: None

Aims and Objectives:

The aim of this course is to explore the links between Ireland's drama and its troubled past (and present). The significance of the early twentieth century dramatists and their interest in self-determination is considered, as is the development of the more recent *Renaissance* in Irish drama. The position of the various 'exiled' dramatists, and their relationships with Ireland, is also included.

Programme Outcomes:

6A (iii), 6B(iii); 6C (i), 6C(iv); 6D(iv)

A detailed list of the programme outcomes is found in the Programme Specification. This is maintained by Registry and located at:

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/programme-and-course-specifications/>

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this course, successful students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding contemporary Irish drama and its interrelationship with older Irish literature and other dramatic influences from the English language.
- Demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of how specific cultural, political and historical processes have shaped contemporary Irish drama.
- Demonstrate the ability to use a variety of ideas and information in order to produce detailed analyses of competing perspectives and to provide critical appraisals of the debates within the area drawing on a wide range of secondary sources.
- Demonstrate the ability to locate their own normative views and cultural commitments in relation to the complex contextual issues relevant to the modern Irish writer.

Indicative Content:

- The dramatic response to social, political and economic turmoil in Ireland, exploring the relationship between political plays and political activity
- The performance of spirituality in Irish drama
- The concept of exile as it translated onto the Irish stage
- The impact and influence of the Abbey theatre beyond Ireland itself
- Concepts of Irish nationalism in performance
- Ireland as a post-colonial nation seen through the lens of theatre.
- Trends in new wave Irish drama

Assessment:

This course conforms to the University Assessment Norms approved at Academic Board.

Teaching Methodology:

Lectures, theatre visits, classroom discussions, video.

Bibliography:

See syllabus for complete reading list

Indicative Texts:

Harrington, John P., ed., *Modern and Contemporary Irish Drama*, Norton Critical Editions, 2009

Trotter, Mary, *Modern Irish Theatre*. Polity Press, 2008

Please Note: The core and the reference texts will be reviewed at the time of designing the semester syllabus

Change Log for this CSD:

Major or Minor Change?	Nature of Change	Date Approved & Approval Body (School or LTPC)	Change Actioned by Academic Registry
Major	Rewrite of Programme Outcomes Learning	LTPC 30/5/14	
Major	Revision of Learning Outcomes	LTPC 30/5/14	
Minor	Revision of Aims & Objectives	LTPC 30/5/14	
Major	Revision of Indicative Content	LTPC 30/5/14	
Minor	Updating of Indicative Texts	LTPC 30/5/14	