Center for Irish Research and Teaching

The mission of the Irish Studies program is to familiarize our diverse student body with the history, literature, culture, and politics of Ireland and the worldwide Irish diaspora, especially the Irish of the American South. By demonstrating applications to both the academic world and students' everyday lives, the program is able to introduce students to interdisciplinary approaches in ethnic and international studies. The Irish Studies program offers direct firsthand opportunities for students to broaden their understanding of and engagement with various issues of cultural identity, developments in nationalism, and international experiences. Irish Studies students are asked to consistently hone their understanding of world cultures in order to effectively create new knowledge and construct innovative critical assessments of historical and contemporary Irish situations and issues. The program, in concurrence with the disciplinary standards and overall mission of the University, distills within our students the spirit of integrity, civility, kindness, and collaboration, as well as a commitment to lifelong learning, wellness, and social responsibility.

Irish Studies Minor


IRSH 1001 Gaelic Irish I
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A basic intensive course in the Irish language for beginners with no previous knowledge of the language. Designed to provide an introduction to the sound system of the modern standard language and its orthography as well as to familiarize students with the essentials of grammar, basic idioms, and elementary vocabulary necessary for everyday conversation.

Cross Listing(s): IRSH 1001S.

IRSH 1001S Gaelic Irish I
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
A basic intensive course in the Irish language for beginners with no previous knowledge of the language. Designed to provide an introduction to the sound system of the modern standard language and its orthography as well as to familiarize students with the essentials of grammar, basic idioms, and elementary vocabulary necessary for everyday conversation.

Cross Listing(s): IRSH 1001S.

IRSH 2001A Gaelic Irish II
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
An intermediate, intensive course in the Irish language for students who have completed basic Irish language instruction. Designed to provide participants with a sound knowledge of all the main aspects of the grammar of standard Irish, increase their ability to employ the many idioms of the language and develop an acceptable standard of reading.

Cross Listing(s): IRSH 2001.

IRSH 2130 Introduction to Irish Culture
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course explores the richness and diversity of the culture of Ireland, where Gaelic, Scots-Irish, and other venerable traditions exist within a globalized modern society and high-tech knowledge economy. Students gain understanding of Ireland's storytelling, theater, art, dance, and song patrimonies; its musical styles, instruments, and performance customs; its indigenous folklore and folklows; its native and colonial-era sports; and its archeology and built environment. They also examine the country's regional, linguistic, religious, and political variety, as well as the tensions and synergies that result from centuries of mixed culture. The course assesses the cultural impact upon Ireland of the vast, worldwide Irish diaspora, and it concludes with informed speculation about the status that traditional Irish cultural forms and practices will have, both at home and abroad, over coming decades.

IRSH 3090 Selected Topics in Irish Studies
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Designed to provide intensive study of an area related to the geography, history, literature, culture and/or civilization of Ireland and the Irish people including those of Irish descent in the United States.

Cross Listing(s): IRSH 3090S.

IRSH 3090S Selected Topics in Irish Studies
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Designed to provide intensive study of an area related to the geography, history, literature, culture and/or civilization of Ireland and the Irish people including those of Irish descent in the United States.

Cross Listing(s): IRSH 3090.

IRSH 3330 Contemporary Irish Culture
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Designed to expand awareness of the rich Irish traditions in music, dance, archeology, theatre, and sport. The course will center on active participation in workshops focusing on traditional Irish singing, set dancing, bodhran (Irish skin drum) playing, weaving, local archeology, hill walking, contemporary poetry and traditional folklore. Field trips to Irish cultural sites will further enhance knowledge gained in the workshop.

IRSH 3333 Irish Theatre
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
Studies the theatre of Ireland from the Abbey Theatre through the present. Covers Irish theatre movement and plays by significant playwrights from W.B. Yeats to Brian Friel.

Cross Listing(s): THEA 3333, THEA 3333S.

IRSH 3430 Ireland in Film
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
The course will consist of a study of films depicting Ireland and the way it represents Irish history, culture and conflict.

IRSH 3432 Celtic Identity and Conflict
3 Credit Hours. 3 Lecture Hours. 0 Lab Hours.
This course examines contemporary issues raised by the conflict in Northern Ireland by studying conflicts in the broader historical context of the experience of the Celtic people in Ireland, Scotland, and Wales who sought to preserve their political and cultural identities in the British Isles.

Cross Listing(s): POLS 3432.