Faculty Information

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Overview/Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to review specific issues involved in the art and culture (fine arts, architecture, economics, politics, theatre and literature) of the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. This is the "travel course", which is why classroom meetings are held to a minimum in Dubuque. Ireland will be our open classroom. The lectures and various materials covered before the trip and after the trip will prepare you for the international experience and (hopefully) help make more sense of it after the trip.

Specifically, in these lectures/discussions/DVDs, we will look at various aspects of the culture of Ireland, both within its own history and the context of the European Union. The purpose of this course is to help you better understand Ireland, the Irish economic miracle (usually referred to as the Celtic Tiger economy), and the contribution of Ireland to the world in art, literature, and theatre. In particular, this year we will study art, history and issues surrounding the business and economic success of Ireland, which has taken place in just a few, short years. The political landscape of Ireland is an ideal textbook to explore these issues.

The adjectives "international" and "global" tend to be overworked by the media, almost to the point of rendering them meaningless. But to our university - one whose mission is, in part, to prepare students for a global society - these adjectives carry a different, essential meaning. And in this course, "international" will seem like a verb because you will actively (as in no other course) go off and experience Europe in the flesh.

This course is predicated upon the simple facts that:
1. you have paid to study and travel to Ireland, and
2. your trip will make more sense if you study the art and culture of Ireland and Northern Ireland before embarking on the trip.

The course is organized simply into required group meetings and discussions followed by organized group travel in Ireland. You must register for and participate actively in the class, or you could be removed from the course (in spite of the fact that you had paid).

Learning-centered student outcomes:

At the end of this course, the student will be able to:
1. Demonstrate an understanding of Irish Art from the ancient period to the 20th century.
2. Discuss specific aspects of the contribution to letters by Irish literature and theatre.
3. Understand the basis of the growth of the Celtic economy since 1990.
4. Write about the process of Irish business incubation.
5. Discuss the history and issues surrounding the Nationalist/Unionist positions.
6. Demonstrate an understanding of the political, economic and cultural issues that surround the EU and Ireland.
Tentative Class Schedule and Performance/Grade Expectations:

Your grade will be based upon the successful completion of the following assignments, tests, essays. Each assignment has a number of credits assigned to it. Please be aware of the due date for each. Here is a tentative class schedule along with the assignments.

1. August 27. Intro and Review of the Trip/Class.
   Welcome, syllabus, review of the trip, questions. Assignment of teams for Cahill book to lead the class in a discussion of a particular chapter.

2. September 3. Lecture: Short History of Ireland.
   - Reflection essay is due at the beginning of class. In 500 words (one page), please tell me what you think you'll learn in your international study experience. Why are you going? How do you approach this time in Ireland? Are you excited? Scared? What about strange foods, money, bathrooms, languages? In this paper, I am interested in your reflections. There are no right or wrong ideas. But ideas, please. Try to use correct grammar and language structure. And as always, be careful about spelling. 5 points.
   - Tonight's lecture: A Short History of Ireland.
   - Cahill team discussions in class.

   - Team 1 will lead the class in a discussion on that chapter. 15 minutes max.
   - JM Synge’s 1905 Playboy of the Western World.

   - Team 2 will lead the class in a discussion on that chapter. 15 minutes max.
   - Reflection essay on Playboy of the Western World due at the beginning of class. 5 points.
   - Brian Friel’s 1998 film: Dancing at Lughnasa.

   - Team 3 will lead the class in a discussion on that chapter. 15 minutes max.
   - Reflection essay on Dancing at Lughnasa due at the beginning of class. 5 points.
   - Illustrated lecture on works from the National Gallery and the Book of Kells, Trinity College.

   - Team 4 will lead the class in a discussion on that chapter. 15 minutes max.
   - Slide exam on Sept 24 art lecture at the beginning of class. 10 points.
   - Business discussion Business Plan Teams.

   - Team 5 will lead the class in a discussion on that chapter. 15 minutes max.
   - 7 teams present business plans in class. 10 points.

   - Team 6 will lead the class in a discussion on that chapter. 15 minutes max.
   - Discussion of Irish Economy. (Butler absent).

9. October 22. Movie: In the Name of the Father.
   - Reflection essay on Michael Collins due at the beginning of class. 5 points.
   - Short essay about Irish Economy based on Oct 15 lecture at the beginning of class. 5 points.
   - Jim Sheridan’s 1993 film: In The Name of the Father. (Garfield absent).

    - Team 7 will lead the class in a discussion on that chapter. 15 minutes max.
    - Reflection essay on In The Name of the Father due at the beginning of class. 5 points.
    - Frank McCourt’s 1999 film: Angela’s Ashes.
   - Reflection essay on Angela’s Ashes due at the beginning of class. 5 points.
   - Frank McCourt’s 1999 film: Angela’s Ashes.

   - Reflection essay on The Secret of Roan Inish due at the beginning of class. 5 points.
   - Final detail review.


   - 2 photographs: 8x10 or 10x8. Trimmed. These pictures become property of UD’s International Study Office. They will be displayed in a show at Sylvia’s Common Ground. They are due in class. 10 points.
   - Comprehensive journal documenting what you did and how you thought about what you did. You must complete this day-by-day on the travel portion of the course. DO NOT FOOL YOURSELF into thinking you can complete the journal once you return to Dubuque. It is also due today. 30 points.

In addition to the assignments, you must:
   >> Attend all class sessions.
   >> Meet all deadlines.
   >> Listen actively and carefully in class, including following all directions.
   >> Participate in class activities and discussions.
   >> Speak effectively and appropriately.

Failure to attend classes (or partial attendance) will result, depending upon the extent to which you miss class, minimally in the lowering of the final grade or maximally in an academic withdrawal from the class (in spite of travel funds deposited). The degree to which your grade will be lowered will be determined by Professors Butler and Garfield, so... please attend. Be on time and ready to work.

**Prerequisites:**
None.

**Required Text(s), Readings, and Materials:**
There is one book: Thomas Cahill. How the Irish Saved Civilization. This book is available in the bookstore.

**Library Requirements:**
There are no library books required in this course.

**Assessment and Learning Activities:**
Your grade will be based upon work done as projects for this class. The class will be completed on March 22. Your grade will be determined as follows:

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Attendance is required for all meetings before the trip. You will be expected to attend and I will keep attendance for each class. This is an accelerated course, so you need to be there taking notes and working.

2. In class, Oral Discussion. Cahill Chapter Discussion. Check syllabus for due date. 10 points. 

3. Write a reflection essay on *Playboy of the Western World*. Due Sept. 17. 5 points. 

4. Write a reflection essay on *Dancing at Lughnasa*. Due Sept. 24. 5 points. 

5. In class, take a slide exam on Celtic Art and Art in the National Gallery. October 1. 10 points. 


7. Write a reflection essay on *Michael Collins*. Due October 22. 5 points. 

8. In class, write an essay on the Irish Economy lecture. October 22. 5 points. 

9. Write a reflection essay on *In The Name of the Father*. Due October 29. 5 points. 

10. Write a reflection essay on *Angela’s Ashes*. Due Nov 5. 5 points. 

11. Write a reflection essay on *The Secret of Roan Inish*. Due Nov 12. 5 points. 

12. Submit 2 8x10 photos in class. December 3. 10 points. 