
VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS AND SCIENCES



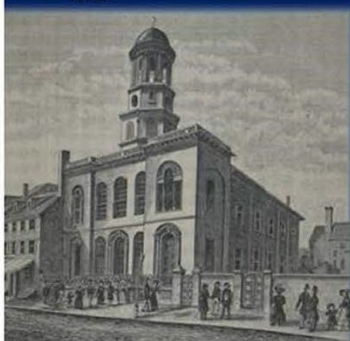
CENTER FOR IRISH STUDIES



IRISH STUDIES
COURSE
DESCRIPTIONS
SPRING 2027



CENTER FOR IRISH STUDIES



Minor in Irish Studies

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Villanova University hosts the Center for Irish Studies. The minor in Irish Studies is open to students from all colleges, and our interdisciplinary program features courses from seven departments. Irish Studies faculty research and teach through a range of disciplines. The Center facilitates courses in anthropology, art history, economics, history, language studies, literature, philosophy, political science, studio art and theatre.

Fifteen credits are required to complete the minor, of which six credits are core requirements: a 3-credit literature survey in English and a 3-credit survey in History. Students may structure and focus five of the many Irish Studies electives into a unified program of study that works with the student's overall goals. The Irish language (Gaelic) two-course sequence can fulfill the College of Arts and Sciences language requirement. Study-abroad courses taken in Ireland may be used for the minor.

Major in Irish Studies

Irish Studies offers a major as a specialization in the Department of Global Interdisciplinary Studies (GIS). The 31-credit major in Irish Studies provides an interdisciplinary and comparative approach to deepen students' understanding of the history, culture, religion, politics, literature, languages, and society of Ireland and produce an in-depth research thesis. Students may sign up for the GIS major and choose their Irish Studies (GIST) specialization through the Department of Global Interdisciplinary Studies in 36 Garey Hall. The GIS Chair and the Director of Irish Studies will work closely with students to develop individual interests, abilities, and career goals while fulfilling their major.

All courses listed here are 3.0 credit unless otherwise noted.

Spring 2027 Course Descriptions

AAH 3007-001: The Art of Ireland

MW 12:50-1:40pm

Dr. Tina Waldeier Bizzarro

Why did “Star Wars,” Episode VII, chose Ireland’s westerly island of “Skellig Michael” as the rendez-vous scene for Luke and Leah? Ireland’s medieval visual culture provides us with a rich cache of sacred sites and mysterious artifacts. This course seeks to stimulate an interest in and love of the unique art of Ireland—from the Stone Age through the Middle Ages—before the cultures of Western Europe permeated Ireland’s borders, when Ireland was insular and isolated, when it was uniquely Celtic and non-Western. Together, we will investigate Ireland’s fascinating passage graves and Stone Age art; the defensive architecture of ring and hill forts and living spaces and the sculpture of the Bronze and Iron Ages; the flowering of Christianity in Ireland under Patrick and before, manifest in Ireland’s famous illuminated manuscripts of the Golden Age and in early church architecture; through the development of medieval churches in the 11th and 12th centuries in the Romanesque style. The student leaving this course will have developed a love for and a firm knowledge of the major monuments of early Irish Art. No prerequisites.

Attributes: Irish Studies, Core Fine Art requirement

ENG 2022-001: Writing Through Conflict

TR 1:00-2:15pm

Alan Drew

This course explores the important role of creative writing in confronting, protesting, and engaging with socio-political conflicts. The goals of this course are to study the work of established American, Irish, and other international authors who focus their creative eye on socio-political conflicts in their many forms, from poverty and racism to war and atrocity, and use these models as guides for the student’s own original creative writing. In this course students will examine the lens through which established writers view these conflicts, will analyze the elements of craft employed by those authors and poets, and use similar techniques in their own creative writing. Among the writers we will study are: Seamus Heaney, Glenn Patterson, Anna Burns, Claudia Rankine, Ta-Nehisi Coates, Yiyun Li, and Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Time in class will be divided between the discussion of readings, lessons concerning craft, directed writing exercises, and the workshopping of student work. This is not a lecture course, but rather a participatory experience that is

essential to the success of the class. Regular attendance and active engagement are required.

As part of this course, students will have the opportunity to travel to Belfast, Ireland over Villanova's fall semester break to participate in an intensive creative writing conference. The students will have the opportunity to participate in writing workshops, readings, and symposiums at Queens University. Co-sponsored by Villanova's Program in Creative Writing and the Center for Irish Studies, and in conjunction with the Seamus Heaney Center at Queens University, this exchange will have a particular focus on exploring the legacy of The Troubles in Northern Ireland. Over a seven day period, students will engage in daily writing workshops with both Irish and American authors, take literary tours in Belfast, attend readings and creative writing symposiums in the evenings, and revise and share their work in a student showcase on the final night of the exchange.

Attributes: Creative Writing, Writing and Rhetoric, Irish Studies

*There is a co-requisite 1-credit course (ENG 2992) designed to provide an embedded study-abroad experience to complement a requisite English course.

*There is a cost associated with the travel to Belfast. Please contact Professor Alan Drew (alan.drew@villanova.edu) for more information.

Attributes: Creative Writing, Irish Studies, Writing Intensive Requirement, Writing and Rhetoric

ENG 3181: Irish Epics, Visions and Hauntings

TR 8:30-9:45am

Dr. Joseph Lennon

In this class we read great Irish epics, vision tales, gothic stories of hauntings, and ballads of rebellion. We begin with the Old Irish saga *Táin Bó Cuailnge* (Cattle Raid of Cooley) and the satiric middle Irish vision text, *Aislinge Meic Conglinne*. Readings include bardic poetry that survived colonialism and the collapse of Gaelic social order in the seventeenth century. Two eighteenth century Irish language works, *Caoineadh Airt Uí Laoghaire* (Lament for Art Ó Laoghaire) by Eileen O'Connell and *Cúirt An Mheán Oíche* (The Midnight Court) by Brian Merriman, are read with an eye toward understanding the seeds of ecological destruction and colonial conflicts between Gaelic and Anglo cultures in Ireland. The course ends with a sampling of gothic tales by Maria Edgeworth, James Clarence Mangan, and Sheridan Le Fanu.

Attributes: Irish Studies, Irish Literature Survey for Minor requirement, Writing and Rhetoric

HIS 1155 – Irish-America Saga**MWF 10:40-11:30am****Fr. Joseph Ryan**

This course satisfies the Core Requirement for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The course also satisfies a UNITAS Division 1 attribute. The scope of this course will reflect the main issues in Irish and Irish American history beginning in the twelfth century. Irish Americans were surprisingly once seen as a threat to mainstream society, despite their colonized, marginalized past. Today they represent an integral part of the American immigration narrative. The course will explore how Irish immigrants lacked power and faced structural inequalities that held them down. Once subjects of British oppression, the course will explore how the Irish transition from being discriminated, impoverished outsiders to social insiders in America by the late twentieth century. The course will also explore the role of Irish women in U.S. society, subjected to patriarchal power, Catholic culture, and as persistent social justice activists, as well as the repercussions of gendered, racial, and economic legacies of conflict. In these ways, the course will help students understand the complexity of the Irish American experience and the complicated power dynamics within. The course requirements will include full class participation, three examinations, and one paper: a family history paper ten pages in length.

Attributes: Irish Studies, Core History

HUM 2900-003: Wrestling with God in Modern Ireland**TR 8:30-9:45am****Dr. Terence Sweeney**

Is God still an option in contemporary life? This course engages Irish artist—from James Joyce to Sally Rooney—and Irish philosophers—from Iris Murdoch to William Desmond—in contemporary Ireland as they reflect on leaving and returning to God. The course challenges you to ask about the place of God in contemporary Ireland and in your own lives.

Attributes: Irish Studies, Upper-level Theology

IS 1112-001: Irish Language II**Lec: TR 11:30am-12:45pm****Drill: M 8:30-9:20am****FLTA James O'Flatharta**

-OR-

IS 1112-002: Irish Language II

Lec: TR 11:30am-12:45pm

Drill: M 9:35-10:25am

FLTA James O'Flatharta

-OR-

IS 1112-003: Irish Language II

Lec: TR 2:30-3:45pm

Drill: M 10:40-11:30am

FLTA James O'Flatharta

Continuing groundwork in Irish (Gaelic), including oral proficiency, aural comprehension, and reading knowledge; for students with no prior knowledge of Irish. Supplementary language laboratory work and oral drills.

Attributes: Irish Studies

PSC 3340: Irish Conflict and Peace

TR 10:00-11:15am

Dr. Cera Murtagh

This course will explore the challenges societies face in transitioning from conflict to peace through the critical case of Ireland - a partitioned island which over the last century has experienced a war of independence, civil war and an armed conflict in the North spanning three decades. It will examine the roots of Ireland's conflicts, its journey towards peace and its progress towards fuller 'post-conflict' democracy. The course will explore relations within the island (north and south), between the islands of Ireland and Britain and between Ireland and the wider world and consider possible futures for Ireland. It will, furthermore, chart the immense social, political, cultural and economic change that Ireland has undergone in moving from conflict to peace. By supplementing social science materials with creative media, such as literature and film, students will gain a deeper, more rounded sense of Ireland's journey from conflict to peace. Through the case of Ireland, this course aims to illuminate the fundamental dynamics of conflict and peace including: colonialism, nationalism, sectarianism, international relations, international peacebuilding, human rights, gender, LGBTQ+ rights and social justice.

Attributes: Irish Studies, GWS, Peace & Justice