

Online Diploma in Irish Studies: Year 1

Irish Studies Online is an interdisciplinary introduction to Irish Studies, developed by the Centre for Irish Studies, NUI, Galway. The programme offers an excellent opportunity for those interested in Ireland, especially those without access to traditional programmes of study in this area. The purpose of the diploma is to provide a basic introduction to Irish life and culture through the disciplines of Archaeology, History, literature in English and in Irish (presented in translation), Political Science and Sociology, traditional Irish music and dance.

Irish Studies online provides an overview of Irish history from the pagan Celtic world and the coming of Christianity, through to the cataclysmic famines of the 1840s, the establishment of an independent state in 1922 and Ireland's integration into the European community which has been ongoing since the 1970s. Students are introduced to Irish literature in both the Irish (Gaelic) and English languages, from the Old-Irish sagas and early Irish lyrics through the emergence of Anglo-Irish literature in the 18th century, to the 20th century revival of writing in Irish. Emphasis is also placed on the study of Irish society since independence with due consideration of such crucial issues as gender, religion, modernization, emigration, identity and socio-economic development.

This diploma is suitable for anyone interested in Ireland's past and culture, primary school teachers, secondary school teachers, heritage employees, those employed in the tourism industry.

This course is delivered 100% online.

IS1154**Early Christian Ireland 431-1169**

The course provides a brief overview of Irish history from the pagan Celtic world and the coming of Christianity to the arrival of the Normans in Ireland in 1169. Archaeological remains are studied to gain insights into Irish society in the pre-Christian period and in the Middle Ages. Students are introduced to Irish literary texts such as the Old-Irish sagas and study the ancient Irish epic text *Táin Bó Cuailgne* from an interdisciplinary perspective. The Celtic question is also addressed.

Assessment: 2 essays, continuous assessment

Weighting: 5 ECTS

Reading List

Ó Cróinín, D. 1995 *Early Medieval Ireland, 400-1200*. New York: Longman.

Raftery, B. 1994 *Pagan Celtic Ireland: The Enigma of the Irish Iron Age*. London: Thames and Hudson.

IS1155**Medieval Ireland 1169-1603**

This course focuses on the upheaval in Irish society caused by the Anglo-Norman invasion of the twelfth century and its consequences for Irish social, political and cultural life. It provides a brief historical survey of Gaelic and Gaelicised Ireland in the early Middle Ages and an insight into the archaeology of the Irish Church. The survey also includes a brief introduction to the world of the Irish bardic poet and his work.

Assessment: 2 essays, continuous assessment

Weighting: 5 ECTS

Reading List

Ellis, S.G. 1999 *Ireland in the Age of the Tudors 1447-1603: English Expansion and the End of Gaelic Rule*. New York: Longman.

Foster, R.F. 1989 *The Oxford Illustrated History of Ireland*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Barry, T.B. 1998 *The Archaeology of Medieval Ireland*. Routledge Publishers. Read the text online at www.questia.com

Bergin, O. 1984 *Irish Bardic Poetry*. Dublin; Institute for Advanced Studies.

IS1156**Early Modern Ireland 1603-1845**

Students acquire an interdisciplinary perspective on the patterns of Early Modern Irish society by integrating perspectives gained through the study of Irish literature in both Irish (Gaelic) and English, and history during the period 1603 - 1850. Students investigate the development of Irish (Gaelic) poetry and its response to the political turmoil of this period as well as exploring the events of the 1798 rebellion. Particular attention will be paid to the emergence of Anglo-Irish literature.

Assessment: 2 essays, continuous assessment

Weighting: 5 ECTS

Reading List

Foster, R.F. 1989 *The Oxford Illustrated History of Ireland*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Kiberd, D. 2002 *Irish Classics*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press.

Ó Tuama, S. and Kinsella, T. 1985 *An Duanaire: 1600 - 1900: Poems of the Dispossessed*. Irish Books & Media, Dolmen Press.

Ó Tuama, S. 1995 *Repossessions: Selected Essays on the Irish Literary Heritage*. Cork, Ireland: Cork University Press.