

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**
<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

2018-2019 MLCS 199-B2 Irish Culture
(Winter Term)

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Time: M W F 11:00 – 11:50
Place: HC 2 38
Office Hours: M W 10:00 – 11:00
or by appointment
Course Website: see eClass

Course Prerequisite: No course prerequisite.

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes No, not needed, no such projects approved.

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available

- Exam registry – Students’ Union
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
 - See explanations below
 - Document distributed in class
 - Other (please specify)
- NA

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)

Yes No

Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:

Think you know what “Irish culture” is? If your mind immediately goes to images of short men dressed in green donning a long red beard (the “I” word which we will hopefully avoid in this course) drinking pints of the black stuff on Paddy’s day, this course will make you think again. In *Irish Culture* we will explore elements of Irish society and how they may have been influenced by history. We will look at representations of Irish culture in the media on both sides of the Atlantic, drawing from a range of sources, including literature, film, song, radio, and discourse in the media. *Irish Culture* will place “Irishness” in a global context and challenge international

misconceptions of life on the Emerald Isle.

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

- 1) Define key elements of Irish culture as it is today and consider how they may have been affected by major historical events.
- 2) Discuss topics related to Irish culture as represented in the media.
- 3) Question and challenge Irish stereotypes and misconceptions of what Irish culture looks like.

Texts:

Readings and other sources will be given in class. Online sources will include:

RTE Archives - <https://www.rte.ie/archives/>

Bailiúchán na Scol (The Schools Collection) and other digitized folklore collections available from <https://www.duchas.ie/en>

Etc...

Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-------------------------|
| Attendance and participation | 15% | |
| Short quizzes (2x5%) | 10% | Feb. 1, March 8 |
| Presentation | 15% | Date chosen by students |
| Creative project | 20% | Apr. 8-10 |
| Written assignment | 10% | Feb. 22 |
| Final written exam | 30% | Apr. 23, 9.00am |

Fall / Winter Exam Planner for the 2018-2019 academic year can be found at the following site: <https://www.ualberta.ca/registrar/examinations/exam-schedules/fall-2018-winter-2019-exam-planner>

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable):

Not applicable.

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Attendance and participation: Students are expected to attend class regularly and punctually. To succeed in this class participation and active engagement with the learning materials and classroom discussions are essential, as students will have to critically analyse elements of Irish culture.

Short quizzes: Students will sit short benchmark quizzes, comprised of true/false style and short answer questions. Two quizzes worth 5% each.

Presentation: In pairs (depending on final numbers) students will present one element of Irish culture as reported on [RTE Archives](https://www.rte.ie/archives/) (Irish national broadcasting service). Sign-ups will be done by Week 2. Students must confirm the topic they will present on with the instructor a week before they present.

Creative project: In groups of 3 or 4 students will interpret and present, creatively, Irish culture viewed from a hypothetical/alternate angle. Projects may take the form of a visual presentation, pocket film, series of blog/social media posts, radio drama, audio piece, etc. More details will be discussed in class.

Written assignment: Students will write one post on a class-run blog introducing an element of Irish culture they discovered during the course. More details to be discussed

in class.

Final written exam: Tentative date for the exam is April 23rd at 9.00am. Details of the exam will be discussed in class.

Required Notes:

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

Student Responsibilities:

Academic Integrity:

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at www.governance.ualberta.ca) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult [the Academic Integrity website](#). If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Language courses:

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that the use of on-line translation to complete assignments constitutes a form of cheating as the student's own understanding and work is therefore not reflected. Also, students in language courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, excessive editorial and creative help in assignments is considered a form of cheating that violates the Code of Student Behaviour.

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is

inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department. For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the [Office of the Student Ombuds](#). Information about the [University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures](#) is described in [UAPPOL](#).

Territorial Statement:

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.” (*from the beginning of the Calendar*).

University of Alberta Sexual Violence Policy:

The Sexual Violence Policy was approved by GFC in June 2017. It plays a vital role in ensuring a safe and respectful learning and working environment. As defined in the policy, **sexual violence** is any sexual act or act of a sexual nature, or act targeting sexuality, whether physical or psychological, committed without consent. **Sexual violence** is a complex and serious problem in society and on university campuses. Sexual violence can affect individuals of all gender identities, gender expressions, and sexual orientations, as well as those from all ages, abilities, racial, cultural and economic backgrounds. Through this policy, the University of Alberta recognizes its responsibility to reduce sexual violence in the University community. The university aims to do so by fostering a culture of **consent** and support through education, training and policy. The University recognizes the possible effects of trauma on those who have experienced sexual violence and supports the efforts of individuals to seek support and recover.

To read the policy in more detail, please visit:

<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Policies/Sexual-Violence-Policy.pdf>

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections [Attendance](#) and [Examinations](#) of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and

participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

In this course, attendance and participation are essential components and together constitute 20% of the total grade. Students are expected to engage with the in-class discussions. Participation also includes doing the assigned readings and listening to assigned audio pieces, watching assigned films etc. Topics will be covered in more than one class and will be interlinked therefore it is imperative that students attend every class.

Students who are absent must contact the instructor within two working days or at their earliest convenience to inform them of the reasons for the absence. Unexcused absences will not be accepted and will affect the student’s participation and attendance grades.

Policy for Late Assignments:

Students who consult **in advance** with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension just one time throughout the course with no penalty. However, if a second excuse will be granted for late assignments, half of the mark assigned for this particular work will be deducted. Otherwise, all assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Any assignment not handed-in in time or unexcused late assignments will not be given any marks. Late excuses will **not** be accepted for any reason.

Disclaimer:

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

Student Resources:

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)

[The Academic Success Centre](#) offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)

The [Centre for Writers](#) offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

Health and Wellness Support: There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the [Health and Wellness Support](#) webpage.

Office of the Student Ombuds:

The [Office of the Student Ombuds](#) offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

Grading:

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#)). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”

| Descriptor | Letter Grade | Grade Point Value | % |
|---|--------------|-------------------|---------------|
| Excellent. A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students. | A+ | 4.0 | 97-100 |
| | A | 4.0 | 93-96 |
| | A- | 3.7 | 90-92 |
| Good. B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students. | B+ | 3.3 | 87-89 |
| | B | 3.0 | 83-86 |
| | B- | 2.7 | 80-82 |
| Satisfactory. C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course. | C+ | 2.3 | 77-79 |
| | C | 2.0 | 73-76 |
| | C- | 1.7 | 70-72 |
| Poor/Minimal Pass. D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter. | D+ | 1.3 | 65-69 |
| | D | 1.0 | 60-64 |
| Failure. | F | 0.0 | 0-59 |

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