

## Liberal Arts in Connemara - Immerse yourself in Irish culture and society

### Diversity and Oppression in Contemporary Society

Emphasis is on human diversity. This course is designed to give students an understanding of the conditions that lead to minority emergence and the consequence of minority status; it fosters acceptance of diversity, cultural pluralism, and social change.

### Images of Ireland: A Sociological Perspective

A picture says a thousand words, in part, because of the social context in which it was created. *Images of Ireland: A Sociological Perspective* is a visual sociology course where we will use photography as a method of data collection subject to sociological analysis in order to better understand the people, places, and culture of Ireland. **No prior photography experience is necessary** and DSLR cameras will be provided to you when we arrive in Connemara. Enjoy group dinners at a variety of local pubs, excursions to see surrounding archeological sites, an overnight trip to beautiful Cliften/Westport, dramatic hill walks and more.

### Statistics

This course is geared toward liberal arts, science, business, and health science majors." It introduces descriptive statistics, probability distributions (both discrete and normal), confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, and correlation. Real-world applications are offered and computer statistical software may be used.

### Celtic and Irish History

Spend 2 weeks exploring breathtaking Connemra and the West of Ireland, studying how the environment has shaped history. The west of Ireland has a very long and interesting history. This course surveys ancient Celts in Europe, through medieval tribes and migrations to present Celtic regions and Ireland. It will highlight important places of memory (tombs, hill forts, monasteries, cities, rebellions) as well as mythology and heroes that contributed to a distinctive culture still present in modern Ireland. Students will visit archeological ruins, old churches and monasteries, castles, fishing harbors, and places of industry. TRS271 – Celtic Religious Traditions

Study the ancient religion of Ireland, of gods and goddesses, ancestors and rituals, holy places and sacred rulers. Learn about the Celtic origins of Halloween, and great seasonal festivals of the druids. Walk through the landscape and discover traditions and customs from ancient times that are reflected in the modern world, through myth, place names and customs.

Students will assist faculty in creating an historical walking tour that will be made available for tourists.

### Writing the Irish Landscape

Scholars have pointed out that the natural landscape and the relationship that people have with that landscape shape their language and their literature. The landscape of Ireland has long provided very fertile ground for the country's writers. The relationship between the Irish land and the poet has also been complicated by Ireland's tumultuous past, with its waves of

invasions, colonization and marginalization, and the famines and mass emigration of the nineteenth century. In this course, we will study a wide variety of Irish poetry, with a focus on more recent poets, to learn how the landscape and its history have influenced the country's writers. Much of our discussion of the poetry will follow an eco-critical model, where we think seriously about how the natural landscape creates a space for the poets to inhabit. In addition, students will learn to write their own poetry about the landscape. After instruction on the poetic devices—imagery, meter, and so on—they will write and then share their poems in class workshops. We will practice writing poetry as an immediate and vital event, going out into the Irish countryside to observe, find inspiration, and write.

### **Irish Identity in History and Media**

Spend two weeks exploring breathtaking Connemara, Ireland and studying how history and the media have shaped our understanding of Ireland and Irish Identity. While there, collaborate with local residents to create a unique Irish oral history project.

### **The Archaeological Heritage of Ireland – from the First Settlers to Medieval Castles**

Ireland's archaeological heritage is one of the richest in western Europe. The development of prehistoric Irish societies can be seen in the megalithic tombs of the Neolithic, the wealth of bronze and gold in the succeeding Bronze Age, and in the great royal sites such as Tara and Navan of the Celtic Iron Age. This course charts the evidence for human societies in Ireland over ten millennia from the island's initial colonization by small groups of hunter-gatherers through to the Medieval period. The archaeology of the entire island of Ireland will be covered with particular emphasis on the archaeology of the Burren, a remarkable upland area just south of Galway where archaeological remains of all periods are well preserved and visible.

Galway is ideally positioned amongst some of Ireland's most well-preserved archaeological landscapes and this course includes two trips to the nearby Burren region to visit some of the prehistoric and historic period sites which are highlighted in the lectures.

### **Irish History: Conflict, Identity and the Shaping of Modern Ireland**

This course offers a broad survey of Irish history with a principal focus on the modern centuries, beginning with the Tudor conquest of Ireland. By charting the history of Anglo-Irish relations through major political and military conflicts in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, special attention will be given to the British attempt to assimilate Ireland under the Act of Union from 1801. We will examine the mass social and political campaigns that emerged in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and the rise of the modern ideologies of Irish unionism and nationalism, including the influential Irish-American dimension of the latter, which took shape in the decades after the Great Famine (1845-50).

The course will also examine the undoing of the Union between Britain and Ireland in 1921, the nature of the partition agreement which underpinned the constitutional settlement at that time, and how sustained violent conflict in Northern Ireland from the late 1960s forced politicians and political leaders in these islands and beyond, to revisit the 'Irish Question'.

### **Irish Traditional Music and Dance**

This module will examine current and historical performance and transmission of Irish traditional dance, instrumental music and song, with specific reference to the traditions of the West of Ireland. Utilizing cultural history frameworks, students will explore the place of traditional performance arts in Irish culture, and the central roles these traditions play in formation of local, national and transnational identities. Core elements include an examination of music in the postfamine period in Ireland; music among the Diaspora; revivals of dance and music; sean-nós song; style and the uilleann piping tradition. Conceptual issues of authenticity and tradition will underscore much of the discussions and central questions such as what constitutes traditional performance and the transformative potential of dance and music will be explored and exemplified through a variety of performance platforms. Students will meet with performers and take seannós song and dance workshops, all of which adds integrated, vocational support to the academic programme. (No previous performance experience is required).

### **Irish Society: Stasis and Change in the Ambiguous Republic**

Irish society underwent a complex process of dramatic and relatively rapid social change over the twentieth century, propelling it from being a predominantly rural, Catholic, insular, and socially homogeneous society to become one of the 'most globalized' countries in the world, all within just a few short decades. In this module we explore, and explain, aspects of this process, and its effects on Irish society, mainly from a sociological perspective. Using the changing economy as a backdrop, we go on to explore transformations in key social institutions, such as religion, education, the family, the media, politics and power, and the changing role and position of women in Irish society.

No previous knowledge of either sociology or Irish society is required. It will, however, provide a very useful backdrop to the experience of being in Ireland, and offer valuable and critical insights into 'Irish identity', and the ambiguities of social change for a small country in a global society.

### **Gaelic Culture and Literature; From Cú Chulainn to the Cultural Revival and Beyond**

Gaelic literature is the oldest vernacular literature in Western Europe; this course introduces the student to early Gaelic narrative literature and gives insights into the culture(s) which created that literature. Students read and interpret a selection of texts in translation, including tales of Cú Chulainn and the Ulster Cycle, Fionn nac Cumhaill and the Fianna and tales of the Otherworld, and develop skills in engaging critically with the literature.

The second part of this course explores Irish folklore and the oral storytelling tradition and examines the emergence and development of modern Gaelic literature from the period of the Cultural Revival in the late-nineteenth century. Through the reading of selections of Gaelic prose and poetry in translation, students gain insights into the rapid changes within Gaelic culture from the nineteenth century as represented in folklore and literature. A knowledge of Irish is not a prerequisite for the course; all classes are through English. Introductory classes in the Irish language will be provided to interested students.

	<p><b>Irish Language Classes</b></p> <p>Introductory classes in the Irish language are provided for interested students as part of an Irish Studies programme.</p> <p>Each course will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intensive instruction in spoken Irish each day.</li> <li>• Special classes in traditional Irish singing and dancing.</li> </ul> <p>This intensive course provides a basic knowledge of spoken Irish and a general introduction to Irish linguistic culture. It is designed for those who have no previous knowledge of Irish.</p>
	<p><b>Irish History: The Making of Modern Ireland</b></p> <p>We will examine the various elements that have contributed to the making of modern Ireland. You will learn about the Vikings, the Plantations of Ireland, Act of Union and the Fenian Rising. We will make a deeper examination of 20th Century History with particular focus on the Easter Rising, War of Independence, Civil War, Announcing the Republic of Ireland, Good Friday (Belfast) Agreement.</p>
	<p><b>Cultural Traditions of Ireland</b></p> <p>This course aims to share an understanding of the traditional arts and culture native to Irish-speaking communities, including folklore, sean-nós singing and dancing and traditional Irish music. Students will experience and participate in traditional cultural activities and performances and undertake field trips to cultural-historical sites. The subject will have an element of pre-course study.</p>
	<p><b>Contemporary Social Issues in Ireland</b></p>
	<p><b>Irish Culture and Identity</b></p>
	<p><b>Special Topics in Ireland</b></p>