



School of Languages, Literatures and Cultures

Roinn na Gaeilge

INDIGENOUS ARTS EXPLORATION

Course Syllabus*

Course Lecturer:

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*as guest speakers, performances, field-trips, and course events are subject to change each semester, this document is for indicative purposes only.

SEMESTER 1 or 2

NG160 Indigenous Arts Exploration [5 ECTS]

****MODULE REGISTRATION****

This module is available to International (Visiting) Students only. You cannot pre-register for this course. Students are awarded a place in the module based on a personal statement, submitted **after their arrival** at NUI Galway.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This ten-week course offers participants the opportunity to explore the evolution of the indigenous art forms of Ireland, through the media of film, drama, music, song and oral presentations and performances. Students will gain an alternative perspective on Ireland's literary, cultural and performative heritage through reading and viewing a selection of iconic texts, film and performances which represent the traditional art forms of Ireland in their broadest sense. A key element of the course is the emphasis on the Irish language, surely the most salient emblem of Ireland's indigenous culture. Classes will consist of lectures, practical work-shops, film presentations, and discussion of reading and viewing materials. Participants will also have the opportunity to engage with the practices of traditional song and dance during classes. Archive and contemporary film, where appropriate, in both documentary and fictional genres will provide a comprehensive background to the selected art form and will provide a context for active discussion at the end of each session.

The traditional art forms that may feature in this course are:

- The performance arts of music, dance, song, drama;
- Written art forms – Irish language poetry, prose [in translation]
- Film – exemplars of Ireland's indigenous arts in audio and visual media.



LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Students of *NG160 Indigenous Arts Exploration* will be able to:

- Outline salient features of Irish indigenous culture and art forms;
- Assess the role and status of the Irish language today, considering its official but minority position in regard to the English language in Ireland;
- Critically evaluate a performance/text/visual presentation;
- Compare and evaluate the indigenous art forms of Ireland.

ASSESSMENT:

Indigenous Arts Exploration is a credit bearing (5 ECTS) practice-based class and as such, is assessed by continuous assessment, comprising:

- (a) 50% for **one** 2,500 word research paper;
- (b) 40% for content of **two** reflective journal entries;
- (c) 10% for **active participation** in discussion and in other course activities (field trips etc.).

COURSE PRACTICALITIES AND ARTS IN ACTION EVENTS:

Two/three classes will be held off-campus in Galway city centre and elsewhere in the province. One trip will be off-campus for the entire working day (9am-6pm).



Students are also required to attend a selection of the *Arts in Action* concert series as outlined in the course schedule. These concerts generally take place on Thursday afternoons (from 1 – 2pm) at The Cube, Áras na Mac Léinn, but may also take place elsewhere on campus. For a detailed

description of *Arts in Action* events, please see: <http://www.nuigalway.ie/artsinaction>.

If you have any further queries regarding this module, please contact the module lecturer and course co-ordinator Dr. Liam Ó hAisibéil, Discipline of Irish, NUI Galway at liam.ohaisibeil@oegaillimh.ie or by telephone at +353 91 492 578.

NG160 INDIGENOUS ARTS EXPLORATION (SAMPLE BIBLIOGRAPHY)

All of these titles do not have to be consulted – indicative content only

- Almqvist B. ed., 2012. *Atlantic currents: essays on lore, literature and language: essays in honours of Séamus Ó Catháin on the occasion of his 70th birthday*, edited by Bo Almqvist ... [et al.], Dublin: UCD Press.
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- Evans E.E., 1988. *Irish folk ways*, London: Routledge.
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- Whelan K., 1993. The Bases of Regionalism. *Culture in Ireland--regions: identity and power: proceedings of the Cultures of Ireland Group Conference, 27-29 November, 1992*, pp. 5-63.
- White H. & Boydell B., 2013. *The Encyclopaedia of music in Ireland*, Dublin: University College Dublin Press.
- Williams S., 2010. *Focus: Irish traditional music*, New York: Routledge.
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- Williams S., 2004. Melodic Ornamentation in the Connemara Sean-nós Singing of Joe Heaney. *New Hibernia Review*, 8(1), pp.122-145.
- Williams S. & Ó Laoire L., 2011. *Bright star of the west: Joe Heaney, Irish song-man*, New York: Oxford University Press.
- Wulff H., 2007. *Dancing at the crossroads: memory and mobility in Ireland*, New York: Berghahn Books.
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- Ó Giolláin D., 2000. *Locating Irish folklore: tradition, modernity, identity*, Cork, Ireland: Cork University Press.
- Ó Laoire L., 2016. National identity and local ethnicity: the case of the Gaelic League's Oireachtas sean-nós singing competitions. *Memorial University of Newfoundland's International Phenomenon of Singing Symposium*. Available at: <https://aran.library.nuigalway.ie/handle/10379/5663?show=full>.
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