

7462: Contemporary British Literature:
“Contemporary Irish Literature, Fictions of the Nation”

Today’s Irish fiction is certainly not all “British,” nor does it constitute “Commonwealth” literature. This is in part because there are two Irelands: the Republic and Northern Ireland. These two entities are divided by nationality, trade policies, religion, and to some extent culture; but writers from either side of the border call themselves “Irish,” and it is from this shared value of literary expression in mind that we will explore a range of internationally recognized Irish fiction from the late 1960s to the present.

Our overarching approach will balance an attention to Irish literary production in its historical and material contexts, within themed clusters, and the practice of close reading for form, detail, and style. Themes might include: Northern Ireland and “the Troubles”; Reckoning with the Colonial Past; and the Celtic Tiger, Immigration, and Race (the latter referring to Ireland’s economic boom, 1995-2007). Authors we will likely encounter include: Bernard McLaverty, Anna Burns, Emma Donoghue, Anne Enright, Edna O’Brien, Roddy Doyle, and Mike McCormack.

Please contact Dr. Mickalites with questions or suggestions!