



### **Irish Cultural Studies Fall 2020**

Full suite of specially created online Irish cultural modules. Students choose modules to suit their academic needs and budget from the list of options below:

#### IRISH FOLKLORE

Credits: 6 ECTS/3 US

Myths and legends have been a part of Irish culture and folklore since the very beginning. Irish legends are many and have long inspired a nation of gifted storytellers. Irish storytelling has been a staple of our culture since the dawn of time, with songs, tales, and limericks spreading the world as the Irish emigrated. As such an introduction to Irish folklore offers special reference to story-telling and narrative genres; indigenous and international tale-types in Ireland and traditional custom and belief, including calendar customs. Ancient festivals such as Halloween and St. Patrick's day are now celebrated around the globe thanks to the Irish!

#### IRISH TRADITIONAL MUSIC

Credits: 6 ECTS/3 US

This module is an introduction to the growing field of traditional music and dance studies and will give the student an overview of some of the important features of these traditions. Students will engage this culture academically through lectures that will espouse historical, ethnographic, cultural studies and ethnomusicological / ethnochoreological approaches to the area. Most importantly students will have the opportunity to learn aspects of the tradition through online workshops in tin-whistle, Irish dance and song. No experience or musical literacy is required (but if you perform at a more developed level, we will facilitate you). Assessment will be by essay and seen, online examination – there is no requirement for a music and dance recital exam!

#### IRISH LANGUAGE

Credits: 6 ECTS/3 US

Did you know that 18,000 Americans speak Irish at home? There are about 9,000 Irish speakers in Great Britain and the EU. A small official "Gaeltecht" can be found in Ontario,

Canada and the Irish language has even been used in Space by astronaut Chris Hadfield. Irish is an amazing language with a rich history and Irish Language1 will cover topics such as meeting people, background and place of residence, the family, the house and accommodation, pastimes, daily life and talents and skills. Gaeltacht regions and certain dialect features will be discussed and some of the many Irish-language materials and resources available online will be explored. Lectures will cover the history of the Irish language and early Irish literature. “Ni tir gan teanga”

#### FROM KINGDOM TO REPUBLIC: IRISH HISTORY, 1660-1960

Credits: 6 ECTS/3 US

This general history module will provide those with little or no prior experience of history with an overview of Irish society and politics from c.1660 to 1960. It is ideal for the general arts student, the international student and those who wish to have a general introduction to Irish history. You should also get a sense of who we are as a people, and why we are the way we are. We'll be looking at Ireland from the perspective of the farmer, the shopkeeper, the housewife, the bailiff, the suffragette, as well as the politician and the policeman. From the bottom up as well as the top down. We will be defining Ireland; it's economy, society and class; Irish women and politics; the Famine and dealing with the catastrophe; We will take a closer look at Ireland's patriots, nationalists, republicans, unionists, politics and its followers; Finally, we will investigate the origins of Irish independence; the evolution of popular culture and the Irish diaspora. This is a history full of self-sacrifice and nobility, a history of corruption, deceit, incompetence, and a fair quota of violence.

#### English as we speak it in Ireland

Credits: 6 ECTS/3 US

We Irish are known for our way with words. Although we speak English in Ireland, you'll notice plenty poetic license being taken with English phrases and grammar. When you arrive in Ireland, you may be forgiven for thinking the English spoken here is a completely different language! Indeed, since the dawn of time, the Irish have managed to invent our very own slang words and phrases to unleash on all unfamiliar with the lingo! As such the purpose of this module is to give participants an insight into how language is really used, rather than how we think it is used or how we think it should be used. We focus on Irish English, the way the English language is spoken in Ireland, and what makes it a distinct, rich and interesting variety of English. Naturally occurring language from everyday sources, such as newspapers and social media will also be used as practical examples of language, as well as fictional representations of Irish English in film, television and literature.

#### Global Citizenship and Intercultural Competence

Credits: 6 ECTS/3 US

With technology making the world ever-smaller, and with the ease of travel between countries, chances are that you will meet someone with a different cultural heritage at some point. Learning about other cultures allows you to move outside your own bubble, and find new ways of thinking, and new ways of approaching problems. This module aims at developing students' intercultural communication competence. It will bring the concept of intercultural learning to life in a way that is engaging and allows students to critically evaluate the importance of culture and language in intercultural communication. The first part of the course explores views of identity, culture, and intercultural communication including the role of language. Students will reflect on their own cultural identities and how these might have informed their interpretations of the "other". In the second part of the course students will carry out a collaborative project of intercultural learning. They will be paired with native-speakers from other cultures and be required to carry out tasks aiming at raising intercultural learning. When you learn about other cultures, you learn that there is more than one approach to life. You also learn that your approach might not always be the best way. Perhaps the cultural heritage of someone else can add another dimension to your life.

### Public Humanities Module

**Credits: 6 ECTS/3 US**

This is an exceptional module designed to replace Erasmus study due to emergency travel restrictions. Students will be provided with a range of national and international case studies, via podcasts and websites, introducing them to the different ways in which humanities expertise operates across different cultures and spheres. Students will be introduced to the 'new humanities' areas, including the digital, medical and environmental humanities, and important frameworks for research, including the Unsustainable Development Goals. Students will develop a portfolio reflecting on the key ideas presented via the case studies. Finally, students will create a poster for display in an online exhibition showcasing one key finding from the module, either in relation to a case study they encountered, or a new idea developed in response to the module content. Students will be encouraged to incorporate consideration of the role of the public humanities in the country where they had originally planned to undertake their Erasmus placement.