

**University of Calgary**  
**Department of Communication and Culture**

**Ireland: Film, Art, Culture**  
**COMS 401.17 Lecture 02**  
**Special Topics in Communications Studies: Irish Myth and Culture**  
**Spring 2014**  
**Group Travel Study 7-28 May 2014**  
Pre-Departure Sessions: 5 & 19 March, 2, 16, & 30 April from 5:00-7:00

**Instructor:** Dr. A. Mary Murphy  
**Email:** [ammurphy@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ammurphy@ucalgary.ca)

**Course Description and Objectives**

In every culture, myth is not simply a collection of stories, but a system that can be seen to have residual effect in a variety of ways. In this course, students will start by reading a collection of Irish myths to ground themselves in the fundamental stories and signs of Irish culture. Students will test the notion that “every culture invents its future by reinventing its past,”<sup>1</sup> by investigating the construction and representation of myth in Irish film, television, advertising, politics, arts, crafts, history, and so on.

**Textbooks and Readings**

Heaney, Marie. *Over Nine Waves*. Faber and Faber, 1994.

**Assignments and Evaluation**

**Research Journal: 40% (2 @ 20%) (Pair Assignment)**

Two installments of 1500 words each, indicating installment number and both partners' surnames, will be submitted via Desire2Learn on **18 May** and **27 May**. Each installment should include observations, considerations, and analysis of myth in culture; each installment **MUST** offer evidence of myth and culture research as described in “Course Description and Objectives.” Entries must not be dominated by plot summary or exposition; those that are will be penalized.

**Synthesis Grid: 20%**

This assignment requires consideration of specific program locations as locations indicative of myth in Irish culture. Although the sites selected for the assignment may not make explicit reference to Irish myth, thoughtful responses will make implicit connections, where superficial jottings will not. This is not a TripAdvisor review. Complete the provided assignment template and submit it via Desire2Learn by **7 June**.

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<sup>1</sup> Pierce, David. *Irish Writing in the Twentieth Century*. Cork UP, 2000: 1285.

**Participation: 10%**

We will develop our participation policy during pre-departure sessions, but in general, participation requires attendance on field trips, promptness, attentiveness, and contribution to discussions in useful ways, such as thoughtful and respectful questions and observations. Complete the provided template and submit it via Desire2Learn **27 May**.

**Take-Home Exam: 30%**

The examination will be posted in Desire2Learn among Course Documents. Assignments will be completed and deposited via D2L **by 7 June 2014**.

You do not need to complete all assignments to receive a passing grade in the course. It is the student’s responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment.

**Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No.**

**Policy for Late Assignments**

Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

**Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act**

This course is conducted in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIP). As one consequence, students should identify themselves on all written work by placing their name on the front page and their ID number. Also you will be required to provide a piece of picture identification in order to pick up an assignment or look at a final exam from SS320 after classes have ended. For more information see also <http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy>.

**Grading System**

The following grading system is used in the Department of Communication and Culture:

	Grading Scale
A+	96-100
A	90-95.99
A -	85-89.99
B+	80-84.99
B	75-79.99
B-	70-74.99
C+	65-69.99
C	60-64.99
C-	55-59.99
D+	53-54.99
D	50-52.99
F	0-49

Where a grade on a particular assignment is expressed as a letter grade, it will normally be converted to a number using the midpoint of the scale. That is, A- would be converted to 87.5 for calculation purposes. F will be converted to zero.

### **Plagiarism**

Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course, and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. Readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and other people's words and ideas begin. This includes assignments submitted in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media, and material taken from such sources.

Please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Taylor Family Digital Library, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support>).

### **Writing Skills Statement**

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see <http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow>. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented. If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: [www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support](http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support).

### **Academic Misconduct**

For information on academic misconduct and the consequences thereof please see the current University of Calgary Calendar at the following link; <http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html>

### **Students with Disabilities**

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Student Accessibility Services (220-8237, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than fourteen (14) days after the start of the course.

### **Students' Union**

For details about the current Students' Union contacts for the Faculty of Arts see <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html>

### **Student Ombudsman**

For details on the Student Ombudsman's Office see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>.

### **Emergency Evacuation and Assembly points**

For information on the emergency evacuation procedures and the assembly points see <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>

### **"SAFEWALK" Program -- 220-5333**

Campus Security will escort individuals day or night -- call 220-5333 for assistance. Use any campus phone, emergency phone or the yellow phone located at most parking lot booths.

### **Ethics**

Whenever you perform research with human participants (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see

The Department of Communication and Culture Research Ethics site:

<http://www.comcul.ucalgary.ca/ethics> or the University of Calgary Research Ethics site:

<http://www.ucalgary.ca/research/cfreb>

### **Schedule of Lectures and Readings**

In-Field Session: 7-28 May