

**The University of Calgary**  
**Department of Communication and Culture**  
**Ireland: Film, Art, Culture**  
**COMS 401.31 Lecture 05**  
**Special Topics in Communications Studies: Intersections of Irish Art Forms**  
**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  
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### **Course Description**

Artistic expression is crucial to the formation of group identity. This course will focus on Irish print and visual arts, of both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, and the ways in which writing and visual art communicate and construct Irish culture. Students will identify and analyze elements of Irish culture in a variety of genres: murals, statuary, architecture, journalism, song, speeches, photography, auto/biography, poetry, drama, fiction, and criticism. The course is anchored in the idea of art as narrative, as the way in which a story is told in both fictional and non-fictional texts of all sorts. We will explore how Irish stories are told in visual and print art. One aspect of that exploration is to read cultural codes, narrative devices that an audience understands as symbolic and semiotic markers.

### **Course Objectives**

Students in this integrative study will encounter central concerns being communicated in different modes. They will learn how to apply interdisciplinary theoretical concepts, such as hermeneutics, structuralism, and semiotics, to the interpretation of diverse materials in a limited geographical context. By questioning what a text does, how it does it, and how it relates to other texts, they will develop critical skills with which to draw conclusions. They will see how print and visual works both consciously and unconsciously reflect the values, beliefs, memory, and myths of a culture.

### **Textbooks and Readings**

- coursepack, available in the campus bookstore
- readings from poems, plays, stories, essays, and speeches to the equivalent of 5 books

### **Assignments and Evaluation**

#### **Orientation Talks (OTalks): 30% (2@15%)**

Each orientation talk is a 5-10 minute presentation selected from a list of topics and attached to a date and location. Each topic must be explained, analyzed, and situated in the context of this specific course. Talks must not be entirely expository or plot summary, and each talk should be grounded in some theoretical statement selected from the coursepack. They are also expected to be presented at a classroom level of professionalism. Primary and secondary research materials must be evidenced in the Talk. Consult the instructor regarding reading expectations.

**Intersections Topic: 25% (Partner Assignment)**

A written submission of 3500-4500 words will be submitted, indicating both partners' surnames, via Desire2Learn **25 May**. Assignments may consider a selection of the following topics:

- assess the relationship between arts and politics
- evaluate the representation of women
- discuss the portrayal of priests
- critically explore the portrayal of Irish identity
- discuss the extent to which Irish art is more about the future than the past
- critically examine the relationship of place and identity
- discuss strategies used to counter the presence of Britain in Ireland
- discuss the contribution Irish arts can make to post-colonial theory
- discuss the religious impulse as a feature in Irish arts
- discuss the exploration of social class

Assignments should have a unified focus and must analyze Irish arts. Using some aspect of theory from the coursepack, assignments will discuss a number of specific print pieces and visual pieces. In both print and visual selections, a variety of genres is expected. Submissions may consist of a number of complementary parts. Be mindful of mechanical matters: spelling, grammar, punctuation.

**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**.

**Synthesis Project: 35%**

Create a print or visual reflection in which idea and execution are equally important. It is assumed that those who opt to submit a creative or visual art reflection have appropriate expertise and will discuss project parameters with the instructor. Projects must demonstrate learning and understanding of the course and must contain evidence of course data and synthesis. Include an annotated reading and viewing list (of print and visual art pieces) totalling 1500 words, focusing on how the works inform the project. Projects are due **18 June 2014** via Desire2Learn.

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 Exam: No.****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).

### **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>) if you have any questions regarding how to document sources.

### **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.

### **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 Disability Resource Centre (220-8237) 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/cfieb>

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

Pre-Departure Sessions: 5 & 19 March, 2, 16, & 30 April from 5:00-7:00

In-Field Session: 7-28 May