



SYLLABUS

SCREENING IRELAND: IRISH FILM INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

Instructor: Séamus White

Contact Hrs: 45

Language of Instruction: English

DUBLIN, IRELAND

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the cultural, social, and political contexts of Irish cinema. We will examine key themes and issues in films made about and in Ireland and how they have constructed notions of Irishness.

Specifically, the course will address

- Historical cinematic representations of Ireland and the Irish by US and British film makers
- The emergence of an Irish Film industry in the 1970s
- Ireland's most prolific and critically acclaimed film directors
- Contemporary Irish cinema

Learning Outcomes:

After completing this course, students will be able to

- critique US, British and Irish representations of Ireland in film
- understand key terms in the analysis of Irish film such as romanticism and realism
- chart changes in recent Irish history through the analysis of films as cultural documents

Course Reading List:

The main text for this course is *Irish National Cinema*, Ruth Barton (2004)

Students may also be provided with readings from a variety of other textbooks, including:

Cinema and Ireland, Gibbons, Hill and Rockett (1987)

Irish Film: The Emergence of a Contemporary Cinema, McLoone, Martin. (2000)

Screening Ireland, Lance Pettitt (2000)

Class Grades:

Grades will be based on a combination of written assignments, group presentations, and class attendance and participation

- 60% of the grade will be awarded for a written assignment
- 30% of the grade will be awarded for a group presentation/film review (students will be assessed as a group)
- 10% of the grade will be awarded for class attendance and participation

Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction to Irish Cinema: Romanticism and Realism

- A history of film in Ireland
- How they saw us: *Man of Aran*, *Ryan's Daughter*, *The Quiet Man*

Week 2/3: The emergence of an Indigenous Film Industry in Ireland

- Experimental movies in the 1970s
- How we see us: Questions of national identity, Northern Ireland and other Irish themes in the Films of Neil Jordan and Jim Sheridan

Weeks 4/5: Celtic Tiger Ireland: Themes for the 21st Century

- New century, new themes: the evolution of Ireland on the screen