**BMNAN12800A: Colonialism, Celticism and National Identities in Nineteenth-Century English Literature: Ireland, Scotland, England**

Tárogató 102

Monday 14.15-15.45 and Thursday 14.15-15.45

Dr. Michael McAteer (MM) and Dr.Márta Pellérdi (MP)

With the ratification of the Act of Union between England and Ireland on January 1st, 1801, the question of national identity within the United Kingdom entered a new phase that was reflected in Literature in English throughout the nineteenth century. This course examines the question of colonialism as it arises in this literature, and its significance to our understanding of Irish, Scottish and English national identities as they developed through the century. Particular attention is given to ideas associated with the Celtic races. These include the representations of rural Irish and Highland Scottish culture in fiction and poetry, as well as the ways in which English literature induced ideas of national superiority or national distinctiveness either through assimilation or through expulsion of attributes deemed to be Celtic in nature. The course also considers this question of ethnic and national identity - within writings on Ireland, Scotland and England - in relation to representations of those peoples and cultures beyond the United Kingdom who were subject to the authority of the British Crown, represented by Queen Victoria for most of the century.

Week One – Monday Sept. 12: Introduction

Week Two –Monday Sept 19 and Thursday Sept 22: Maria Edgeworth 1*: Castle Rackrent* and *Ennui* (MM)

Week Three – Monday Sept 26 and Thursday Sept 29: Maria Edgeworth 2: *Castle Rackrent* and *Ennui* (MM)

Week Four – Monday Oct 3 and Thursday Oct 6: Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park* (MP)

Week Five – Monday Oct 10 and Thursday Oct 13: Matthew Arnold, *On the Study of Celtic Literature*; ‘The Scholar-Gipsy’ (MM)

Week Six – Wed Oct 19 **1916 RISING COMMEMORATION SYMPOSIUM - SOPHIANUM** (No seminars on Monday or Thursday of this week)

Week Seven – Monday Oct 24 and Thursday Oct 27: Walter Scott 1: *Waverley* (MP)

**AUTUMN TERM BREAK MON OCT. 31-FRI NOV 4.**

Week Eight – Monday Nov 7 and Thursday Nov 10: Walter Scott 2: *Waverley (*also, *The Heart of Midlothian)* (MP)

Week Nine – Monday Nov 14 and Thursday Nov 17: Nineteenth-Century Irish Poetry Selection: Thomas Davis, Samuel Ferguson, Lady Wilde (Also, agree your essay topic with teacher) (MM and MP)

Week Ten–Monday, Nov 21 and Thursday Nov 24: James Clarence Mangan, selected poems (MM)

Week Eleven - Monday Nov 28 and Thursday Dec 1 : Lord Alfred Tennyson, selected poems. (MP)

Week Twelve – Monday Dec 5 and NO CLASS THURSDAY DEC 8 (HOLIDAY): Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Ebb-Tide* (MP) **(Students submit final essay Mon Dec. 5)**

Week Thirteen – Monday Dec 12 Return of Essay Marks

Assessment: Seminar Presentation (20%); 1916 Short Essay (10%) Final Essay (3,000 words) (70%)

Note: For Seminar Presentation, supply 10 copies of your handout for the seminar group.

Required Reading includes:

Matthew Arnold, *On the Study of Celtic Literature* (1867) (available at *archive.org*)

Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park*, new ed. (Oxford: Oxford World Classics , 2003) ISBN: 019280264X

Maria Edgeworth, *Castle Rackrent* and *Ennui* (London: Penguin, 1992). ISBN: 0140433201

Walter Scott, *Waverley* (London: Penguin Classics, 1985). ISBN: 9780140430714

Seamus Deane, ‘National Character and the Character of Nations’, *Strange Country: Modernity and Nationhood in Irish Writing since 1790* (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1997). ISBN: 0198184905

Edward W. Said, ‘Jane Austen and Empire’, *Culture and Imperialism* (London: Vintage, 1994). ISBN: 0099967502

Recommended reading:

Claire Connolly, *A Cultural History of the Irish Novel, 1790-1829* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012). ISBN: 9781107009516

Terry Eagleton, *Heathcliff and the Great Hunger: Studies in Irish Culture* (London: Verso, 1995). ISBN: 1859849326

Margaret Kelleher and Philip O’Leary, ed., The*Cambridge History of Irish Literature*, Vol. 1: to 1890 (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2006). ISBN: 9780521822244

Bill Schwarz, *The Expansion of England: Race, Ethnicity, and Cultural History* (London: Routledge, 1996). ISBN: 0415060265

**MA ‘Celticism, Colonialism and National Identities’ Seminar Presentations (Thursday class):**

Sept 22:

Language, dialect and Irish identity in Maria Edgeworth’s *Castle Rackrent*

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Sept. 29

Relations between Ireland and England in Maria Edgeworth’s *Ennui*

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Oct 6

The significance of the colony to Jane Austen’s *Mansfield Park*

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Oct. 13

Features of Celtic ‘nature’ in the writing of Mathew Arnold

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Oct. 27

Scottish Highland culture, society and landscape in Walter Scott’s *Waverley*

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Nov. 10

Political thought in Walter Scott’s *Waverley* (Jacobitism, Toryism, Royalism, Colonialism, Nationalism)

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Nov. 17

Romanticism, Rebellion and Nationalism in 19th Century Irish Poetry

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Nov. 24

Colonialism and Post-colonialism in the poetry of James Clarence Mangan

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Dec 1

England, Scotland and Empire in the Poetry of Alfred, Lord Tennyson

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Dec. 5 **(presentation in Monday class as Thursday is a holiday)**

R.S. Stevenson and the theme of Imperial corruption in the late 19th century

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