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

**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 – Wednesday, Sept. 9: Introduction

Week Two – Wednesday, Sept. 16: Maria Edgeworth 1*: Castle Rackrent* and *Ennui* (MM)

Week Three – Wednesday, Sept. 23: Maria Edgeworth 2: *Castle Rackrent* and *Ennui* (MM)

Week Four – Wednesday, Sept. 30: Jane Austen, *Mansfield Park* (MP)

Week Five – Wednesday, October 7: Matthew Arnold, *On the Study of Celtic Literature*; ‘The Scholar-Gipsy’ (MM)

Week Six – Wednesday, October 13: Walter Scott 1: *Waverley* (MP)

Week Seven – Wednesday, October 20: Walter Scott 2: *Waverley (*also, *The Heart of Midlothian)* (MP)

*Mid-Term Break: October 23-November 2*

Week Eight – Wednesday, Nov. 4: Nineteenth-Century Irish Poetry Selection: Thomas Davis, Samuel Ferguson, Lady Wilde (Also, agree your essay topic with teacher) (MM and MP)

Week Nine – Wednesday, Nov. 11: James Clarence Mangan, selected poems (MM)

Week Ten - Wednesday, Nov. 18: Lord Alfred Tennyson, selected poems. Robert Louis Stevenson, ‘The Ebb-Tide’ (MP)

Week Eleven – Wednesday, Nov. 25: W.B. Yeats, Selected Poems and Essays (MM)

Week Twelve – Wednesday, December 2: W.B. Yeats, Selected Poems (MM)

Week Thirteen – Wednesday, December 9: Review and submission of student essays.

Assessment: Seminar Presentation (20%); Essay (3,000 words) (80%)

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

Required Reading:

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