**BMNAN12900A Postcolonialism and Twentieth-Century Literature: Ireland, Scotland, England**

**Tárogató 103**

Wednesday 10.15-11.45; 12.30-14.00

Dr. Michael McAteer, Dr. Márta Pellérdi,

The early twentieth century bore witness to a new movement in Irish literature and drama that related in significant ways to Ireland’s break from the United Kingdom in 1922, a political development that had a disruptive effect on Britain as an Imperial power, coming soon after the enormous impact of the First World War. The Irish literary movement displayed features that were anti-Imperial in nature, but also carried a postcolonial aspect, both through its inventions of, and its subversions of, ideas of Irish national identity. The Celtic element in the Irish movement was also evident in Scottish and English literature. In their explorations of magic and their experiments with language, narrative, and style, writers like Virginia Woolf and Hugh MacDiarmuid drew upon Celtic influences in their writing. In so doing, their works called into question values that were important to representing Britain as an Imperial power; order, reason, progress, racial hierarchy, civil obedience. This course examines the experiments with literature as a medium in the early twentieth century – usually termed the Modernist movement – in postcolonial terms, looking at the ways in which these experiments reflected tensions arising from the pressures within the United Kingdom itself as a nation-state formation with a history of internal colonisation

**Seminar Schedule**:

Week 1: Sept. 14 Introduction (MMc and PM)

Week 2: Sept. 21 W.B. Yeats, *Selected Poems*; *Selected Plays*  (MMc)

Week 3: Sept 28 George Moore, *The Untilled Field* (PM)

Week 4: Oct 5 James Joyce, *Ulysses* (selected episodes) (MMc)

Week 5: Oct 12 Virginia Woolf, *Orlando*  (PM)

Week 6: Oct 19 **1916 RISING COMMEMORATION SYMPOSIUM - SOPHIANUM**

Week 7: Oct 26 Elizabeth Bowen , *The Last September* (PM)

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

Week 8: Nov 9 E.M. Forster, *A Passage to India*  (PM)

Week 9: Nov 16 20th Century Scottish Poetry: Hugh MacDiarmid, Iain Crichton Smith (MMc)

Week 10: Nov 23 Brian Friel, *The Freedom of the City*; *Translations*  (MMc)

Week 11: Nov 30 Irvine Welsh: *Trainspotting* (PM)

Week 12: Dec 7 Poetry selection: Seamus Heaney, Derek Walcott, Medbh McGuckian, Carol Ann Duffy **(Students submit final essay on Wed Dec 7)**  (MMc and PM)

Week 13: Dec 14 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**:

Set texts as shown above. Also:

Begam, Richard, and Michael Moses, ed., *Modernism and Colonialism: British and Irish Literature, 1899-1939* (Chicago IL: Duke University Press, 2007). ISBN: 0822340380

Joyce, James, *Ulysses* (1922) (London: Penguin, 1992). ISBN: 0140185585

McKay, Peter, Edna Longley, Fran Brearton, ed., *Modern Irish and Scottish Poetry* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2013). ISBN: 9781107660724

Said, Edward, ‘Yeats and Decolonization’, *Culture and Imperialism* (London: Vintage, 1994). ISBN: 0099967502

Moore, George, *The Untilled Field* (available on *archive.org*)

Woolf, Virgina, *Orlando: A Biography* (1928) (London: Penguin, 2000). ISBN: 9780141184272

Yeats, W.B., *Selected Poems*, ed. Timothy Webb (London: Penguin, 2000). ISBN: 978014118125

**Recommended reading**:

Attridge, Derek, *The Cambridge Companion to James Joyce*, second edition (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004). ISBN: 0521545536

Cleary, Joseph, *Outrageous Fortune: Culture and Capital in Modern Ireland* (Notre Dame/Dublin: Field Day Publications, 2007). ISBN: 0946755353

Deane, Seamus, *Celtic Revivals: Essays in Modern Irish Literature, 1890-1980* (London: Faber, 1985). ISBN: 0571135013

Randall, Byrony and Jane Goldman, *Virginia Woolf in Context* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012). ISBN: 9781107003613

Wisker, Gina, *Key Concepts in Postcolonial Literature* (Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007). ISBN: 1403944482

**Seminar Presentations**:

Sept 21: The treatment of Irish history and politics in Yeats’s poetry and drama

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Sept 28: Belonging and displacement in the stories of George Moore

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Oct 5: Colonialism and Irish history in the ‘Telemachus’ and ‘Cyclops’ episodes of Joyce’s *Ulysses*.

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Oct 12: Gender and identity in Woolf’s *Orlando*.

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Oct 26: Gender and Anglo-Irish culture in Bowen’s *The Last September*.

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Nov 9: Englishness and India in Foster’s *A Passage to India*

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Nov 16: Scottish identity in 20th century poetry

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Nov 23: Colonialism and the North of Ireland in the plays of Brian Friel

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Nov 30: Colonialism and class in Irvine Welsh’s *Trainspotting*.

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Dec 7: Colonialism and identity in contemporary Irish, Scottish and English poetry

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