

## Modern Irish Literature

The following doctoral reading list in modern Irish literature takes the 1800 Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland as its starting point, thus focusing on key literary texts and contexts beginning at the start of the 19th century and ending at the start of the 21st. In addition, this list includes selections from historical, literary and political texts that stand as key ideological and aesthetic antecedents or appendices to modern Irish literary production. Students will be expected to demonstrate familiarity with modern Irish politics and history (including topography/cartography and Ireland's shifting nomenclature). To this end, students should choose, in addition to the texts listed below, an introduction to modern Irish history (*Modern Ireland* by R.F. Foster would be appropriate). Students will be expected to fill out this list with texts that expand upon their particular research interests-including, but not limited to: Irish poetic traditions, Irish drama, Irish film, gender and sexuality in Irish writing, Irish romanticism, aestheticism and decadence in Irish writing, the Irish New Woman, the rise of the novel, Irish modernism, or focused study of individual authors.

### Section One: Antecedents, Memoirs and Political Documents [7]

Edmund Spenser *Selections from A Vewe of the Present State of Irelande* (1633)

Jonathan Swift *A Modest Proposal* (1729)

Aubrey De Vere *English Misrule and Irish Misdeeds* (1848)

Daniel Corkery *The Hidden Ireland* (1924)

Margaretta D'Arcy *Tell Them Everything: A Sojourn in the Prison of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at Ard Macha* (Armagh) (1981)

Bobby Sands *Skylark Sing your Lonely Song* (1982)

Historical and Political Backgrounds, a selection of short readings:

- The Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland (1800)
- Cumman na mBan, Manifesto (1914)
- Irish Citizen Army, Forógra na Poblachta (1916) [Declaration of the Irish Republic]
- Anglo-Irish Treaty (1921)
- Irish Free State Constitution (1922)
- Bunreacht na hÉireann (1937)
- Good Friday Agreement (1998)

### Section Two: Fiction [28]

Maria Edgeworth *Castle Rackrent* (1800)

Sidney Owenson *The Wild Irish Girl* (1806)

William Carleton *Traits and Stories of the Irish Peasantry* (1830)

Sheridan Le Fanu *Uncle Silas* (1864) [based upon "Passage in the Secret History of an Irish Countess"]

(*Dublin University Review*, 1838)], "Carmilla" (1872)  
 Emily Lawless *Grania* (1892)  
 Somerville and Ross *The Real Charlotte* (1894)  
 Augusta Gregory *Cuchulain of Muirthemne* (1902)  
 George Moore *The Untilled Field* (1903)  
 James Joyce *Dubliners* (1914); *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (1916)  
 Frank O'Connor *Guests of the Nation* (1931)  
 Kate O'Brien *The Land of Spices* (1941)  
 Elizabeth Bowen *The Last September* (1929)  
 Molly Keane *The Rising Tide* (1937)  
 Samuel Beckett *Murphy* (1938)  
 Flann O'Brien *At Swim-Two-Birds* (1939)  
 Sam Hanna Bell *December Bride* (1951)  
 John McGahern *The Dark* (1965)  
 Francis Stuart *Blacklist, Section H* (1971)  
 Sean Ó Faoláin *Selected Stories* (1978)  
 Julia O'Faolain *No Country for Young Men* (1987)  
 John Banville *The Book of Evidence* (1989)  
 Roddy Doyle *Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha* (1993)  
 Patrick McCabe *The Butcher Boy* (1994)  
 Sebastian Barry *The Whereabouts of Eneas McNulty* (1999)  
 Mary Costello *Titanic Town* (2000)  
 Colm Toibin *The Blackwater Lightship* (2001) or *Brooklyn* (2010)  
 William Trevor *The Story of Lucy Gault* (2002)  
 Jamie O'Brien *At Swim, Two Boys* (2002)

### **Section Three: Poetry [6]**

Mark Storey, ed. *Poetry and Ireland since 1900: A Sourcebook*  
 Late 18th / early 19th Poetry: Selections

- Eibhlín Dubh Ní Chonail "Caoineadh Airt Uí Laoghaire" ["Lament for Art O'Leary"] (c. 1773)
- from Charlotte Brooke *Reliques of Irish Poetry* (1789)
- James Clarence Mangan, selected poems (c. 1825-1849)
- Thomas Moore, from *Irish Melodies*

Charles Gavan Duffy *Ballad Poetry of Ireland* (1845)  
 Douglas Hyde *The Love Songs of Connacht* [in translation] (1894)  
 W.B. Yeats *The Yeats Reader* (ed. Finneran) [all selected poems]  
 Patrick Crotty (ed.) *Modern Irish Poetry: An Anthology*

### **Section Four: Drama [9]**

Dion Boucicault *The Colleen Bawn* (1860) and *The Shaughraun* (1874)  
Oscar Wilde *Salome* (1892) and *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895)  
John Harrington, ed. *Modern and Contemporary Irish Drama* (Norton Critical Edition)  
Teresa Deevy *Katie Roche* (1936); *Wife to James Whelan* (1942)  
Brendan Behan *The Quare Fellow* (1954)  
Anne Devlin *Ourselves Alone* (1985)  
Frank McGuinness *Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching Towards the Somme* (1985)  
and *Carthaginians* (1988)  
Christina Reid *Tea in a China Cup* (1983) and *The Belle of Belfast City* (1989)  
Martin MacDonagh *The Beauty Queen of Leenane* (1996); *The Cripple of Inishmaan* (1996);  
*The Lieutenant of Inishmore* (2001)