

You will find that some courses are only available for WEA members at this time, as part of member's priority booking. Courses will become available for all at 11 am on Wednesday 3rd July. Alternatively, become a WEA member today to book right away. Click on the 'Become a member' link at the top of the page.

Early booking is a membership perk for WEA members, where courses are available exclusively before becoming available for everyone else.

Got it!

Course details

Course title

Literature: Twentieth Century Irish Poetry

Course code

Q00017458

Course date

Start: 20/09/24

End: 29/11/24

Number of classes

11 sessions

Timetable

Fri 20th Sep, 14:00 to 16:00

Fri 27th Sep, 14:00 to 16:00

Fri 4th Oct, 14:00 to 16:00

Fri 11th Oct, 14:00 to 16:00

Fri 18th Oct, 14:00 to 16:00
Fri 25th Oct, 14:00 to 16:00
Fri 1st Nov, 14:00 to 16:00
Fri 8th Nov, 14:00 to 16:00
Fri 15th Nov, 14:00 to 16:00
Fri 22nd Nov, 14:00 to 16:00
Fri 29th Nov, 14:00 to 16:00

Tutor

Stephen Smith

Fee range

Free to £74.00

How you'll learn

You'll join a small group of fellow learners for classes online in video meetings and materials will be provided in our virtual learning environment.

Got it!

Online

Venue

Online

Level of study

Beginners

Course overview

Spanning the twentieth century as it does this course will witness women's voices interacting with the history of political change, both domestically and internationally. Therefore, we will be able to trace themes such as enfranchisement and cultural emancipation in our texts. Set against a backdrop of political and cultural change, our texts will discuss women's rights, gender and sexuality, and the woman's right to imaginative emancipation also. Interacting with the political and socio-cultural aspect

of the course, we will also discuss how our writers are affected by and interact with literary/political movements such as feminism, nationalism, modernism and postmodernism, all of which have allowed women's distinctive voices to emerge. To support consideration of these issues, we will allude to aspects of the general culture in Britain during the century such as class and consumerism, and our stories will form a commentary on the shifting perception of women of themselves. Along with these aspects of the course, we will also observe how women's voice have helped to reshape the technical and structural possibilities of the short story form, as the short story form has experimented with new modes of relating narrative.

Course description

The course will begin with the poems of Yeats', which belong to the Celtic Twilight, before we consider his poems relating to the struggle for Irish Independence, before concluding with his late poems and their relationship with Modernism.

A poet very different from Yeats, but in his own way remarkable is Patrick Kavanagh, and our discussions will focus on his poem, *The Great Hunger*, and his lyrical verse, both of which are influences on Heaney, particularly his poems of pilgrimage.

We will then consider Seamus Heaney, and trace his interactions with the Troubles and his evolution of a mature style, which made him one of the most remarkable global poets of the century. Alongside Heaney, we will analyse the contribution of his contemporaries Michael Longley, Derek

Mahon and Paul Muldoon, who has become the doyen of high Modernism.

Finally we will explore the work of Louis MacNeice and his poetic roots in Northern Ireland, noting his lyrical excellence as a technician of soundscapes within poetry, and his qualities of acute observation of landscape which influence both Longley & Mahon.

This will be a course which will open you up for the first time or again to the beauties of Irish poetry.

What financial support is available?

We don't want anything to stand in your way when it comes to bringing Adult learning within reach so if you need anything to support you to achieve your goals then speak to one of our education experts during your enrolment journey. Most of our courses are government funded but if you don't qualify or need alternative financial help to access them then let us know.

What other support is available?

All of our digital content, teaching and learning activities and assessments are designed to be accessible so if you need any additional support you can discuss this with the education experts during your enrolment journey and we will do all we can to make sure you have optimal access.

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