

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES  
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**  
<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2019-2020 MLCS 199 B2 Irish Culture**  
(Winter Term)

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Time: M W F 11:00 – 11:50  
Place: HC 2 38  
Office Hours: M W 10:00 – 11:00  
or by appointment  
Course Website: see eClass

Bachelor of Arts / Major in Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:  
<https://www.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies/undergraduate-program-information/prospective-undergraduate-students>

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**Course Prerequisite:** No course prerequisite.

It is your responsibility as a student to ensure that you have the appropriate prerequisites for the course.

**Course-based Ethics Approval** in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc.?

Yes       No, not needed

**Community Service Learning** component

Required     Optional     None

**Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material Available**

- Exam registry – Students’ Union  
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class
- Other (please specify)
- NA

**Course Description, Objectives and Expected Learning Outcomes:**

Think you know what “Irish culture” is? If your mind immediately goes to images of short men dressed in green donning a long red beard (the “I” word which we will hopefully avoid in this course) drinking pints of the black stuff on Paddy’s day, this course will make you think again. In *Irish Culture* we will explore elements of Irish society and how they may have been influenced by history. We will look at representations of Irish culture in the media on both sides of the Atlantic, drawing from a range of sources, including literature, film, song, radio, and discourse in the media.

*Irish Culture* will place “Irishness” in a global context and challenge international misconceptions of life on the Emerald Isle.

By the end of this course, students will be able to:

- 1) Define key elements of Irish culture as it is today and consider how they may have been affected by major historical events.
- 2) Discuss topics related to Irish culture as represented in the media.
- 3) Question and challenge Irish stereotypes and misconceptions of what Irish culture looks like.

**Course Format:** The objectives of this course will be learned from a combination of formal lectures, guest presentations, assigned readings and audiovisual materials such as films and archive video material.

**Texts:**

Readings and other sources will be given in class. Online sources will include:

**RTÉ Archives** - <https://www.rte.ie/archives/>

**Bailiúchán na Scol (The Schools Collection)** and other digitized folklore collections available from <https://www.duchas.ie/en>

*Etc...*

**Additional Course Fees**

Yes       No

**Important Dates:** See Academic Schedule in current Calendar

First Day of Class: January 6, 2020

Add/Delete Date: January 17, 2020

50% Withdrawal Date: February 5, 2020

Winter Term Reading Week: February 18-21, 2020

Withdrawal Date: April 1, 2020

Last Day of Class: April 8, 2020

Final Exam Date (if applicable): 2:00 pm, April 22, 2020

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): Please consult the following site:

<https://calendar.ualberta.ca/content.php?catoid=6&navoid=806#Examinations> (Exams)

Deferred Final Examination: For information on how to apply for a deferred exam see “I Missed my Final Exam, Now What?”

**Grade Distribution (see “Explanatory Notes”):**

Attendance and participation	15%	
Short quizzes (2x5%)	10%	Feb. 7, March 20
Presentation	15%	Date chosen by students
Creative project	20%	Apr. 6-8

Written assignment	10%	Feb. 24
Final written exam	30%	Apr. 22, 2pm

Fall / Winter Exam Planner for the 2019-2020 academic year can be found at the following site: <https://www.ualberta.ca/registrar/examinations/exam-schedules/fall-2019-winter-2020-exam-planner>

### **Explanatory Notes on Assignments:**

**Attendance and participation:** Students are expected to attend class regularly and punctually. To succeed in this class participation and active engagement with the learning materials and classroom discussions are essential, as students will have to critically analyse elements of Irish culture.

**Short quizzes:** Students will sit short benchmark quizzes, comprised of true/false style and short answer questions. Two quizzes worth 5% each.

**Presentation:** In pairs (depending on final numbers) students will present one element of Irish culture as reported on [RTÉ Archives](#) (Irish national broadcasting service). Sign-ups will be done by Week 2. Students must confirm the topic they will present on with the instructor a week before they present.

**Creative project:** In groups of 3 or 4 students will interpret and present, creatively, Irish culture viewed from a hypothetical/alternate angle. Projects may take the form of a visual presentation, pocket film, series of blog/social media posts, radio drama, audio piece, etc. More details will be discussed in class.

**Written assignment:** Students will write one post on a class-run blog introducing an element of Irish culture they discovered during the course. More details to be discussed in class.

**Final written exam:** Tentative date for the exam is April 22nd at 2pm. Details of the exam will be discussed in class.

### **Required Notes:**

Policy about course outlines can be found in the [Evaluation Procedures and Grading System](#) of the University Calendar.

### **Student Responsibilities:**

#### ***Academic Integrity:***

The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the [Code of Student Behaviour](#) and avoid any behaviour that could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.

All students should consult the Academic Integrity website. If you have any questions, ask your instructor.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the Academic Discipline Process.

***Learning and Working Environment:***

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment that is safe and free from discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels that this policy is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that direct discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the Office of the Student Ombuds. Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures is described in UAPPOL.

***Sexual Violence Policy:***

It is the policy of the University of Alberta that sexual violence committed by any member of the University community is prohibited and constitutes misconduct. Resources and more information can be found at <https://www.ualberta.ca/campus-life/sexual-violence>

***Territorial Statement:***

“The University of Alberta acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 territory, and respects the histories, languages, and cultures of the First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and all First Peoples of Canada, whose presence continues to enrich our vibrant community.” (*from the beginning of the Calendar*).

***Recording of Lectures:***

Audio or video recording, digital or otherwise, of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Student or instructor content, digital or otherwise, created and/or used within the context of the course is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

***Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:***

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections

Attendance and Examinations of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Deferral of term work is a privilege and not a right; there is no guarantee that a deferral will be granted. Misrepresentation of facts to gain a deferral is a serious breach of the Code of Student Behaviour.

**In this course**, attendance and participation are essential components and together constitute 15% of the total grade. Students are expected to engage with the in-class discussions. Participation also includes doing the assigned readings and listening to assigned audio pieces, watching assigned films etc. Topics will be covered in more than one class and will be interlinked therefore it is imperative that students attend every class.

Students who are absent must contact the instructor within two working days or at their earliest convenience to inform them of the reasons for the absence. Unexcused absences will not be accepted and will affect the student’s participation and attendance grades.

***Policy for Late Assignments:***

Students who consult **in advance** with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension just one time throughout the course with no penalty. However, if a second excuse will be granted for late assignments, half of the mark assigned for this particular work will be deducted. Otherwise, all assignments should be handed in on the stated deadline. Any assignment not handed-in in time or unexcused late assignments will not be given any marks. Late excuses will **not** be accepted for any reason.

***Disclaimer:***

Any typographical errors in this syllabus are subject to change and will be announced in class and posted on eClass. The date of the final examination is set by the Registrar and takes precedence over the final examination date reported in this syllabus.

**Student Resources:**

The best all-purpose website for student services is: <https://www.ualberta.ca/current-students>.

**Accessibility Resources: (1 – 80 SUB)**

The University of Alberta is committed to creating work and learning communities that inspire and enable all people to reach their full potential. Accessibility Resources promotes an accessible, inclusive, and universally designed environment. For general information to register for services visit the [Accessibility Resources](#) webpage.

**The Academic Success Centre: (1-80 SUB)**

The Academic Success Centre offers a variety of workshops on effective study and exam strategies. There are in-person and online sessions available for a modest fee.

**The Centre for Writers: (1-42 Assiniboia Hall)**

The Centre for Writers offers free one-on-one writing support to students, faculty, and staff. Students can request consultation for a writing project at any stage of development. Instructors can request class visits and presentations.

**Health and Wellness Support:** There are many health and community services available to current students. For more information visit the Health and Wellness Support webpage.

**Office of the Student Ombuds:**

The Office of the Student Ombuds offers confidential interviews, advice and support to students facing academic, discipline, interpersonal and financial difficulties.

**Grading:**

Assessment of the individual course components may be in the form of numerical marks or letter grades. The final letter grade will be based on "a combination of absolute achievement and relative performance in a class" (University Calendar, Evaluation Procedures and Grading System). The University Grading Procedure mandates that "a student's level of achievement of the goals/outcomes of a course, their grade, and the descriptor of that grade must be aligned" (<https://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/>). The following guidelines have been adopted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultural Studies:

**“MLCS Undergraduate Grading Scale”**

Descriptor	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	%
<b>Excellent.</b> A+, A or A- is earned by work which is superior in content and form and demonstrates an exceptional grasp of the subject matter. The grade of A+ designates work that far exceeds course expectations. Grades in the A range are normally achieved by a small number of students.	<b>A+</b>	4.0	<b>97-100</b>
	<b>A</b>	4.0	<b>93-96</b>
	<b>A-</b>	3.7	<b>90-92</b>
<b>Good.</b> B+, B or B- is earned by work that demonstrates a thorough comprehension of the course material and a good command of relevant skills. Grades in the B range are normally achieved by the largest number of students.	<b>B+</b>	3.3	<b>87-89</b>
	<b>B</b>	3.0	<b>83-86</b>
	<b>B-</b>	2.7	<b>80-82</b>

<b>Satisfactory.</b> C+, C or C- is earned by work that demonstrates an adequate grasp of the course material and relevant skills. Grades in the C range designate work that has met the basic requirements of the course.	<b>C+</b>	2.3	<b>77-79</b>
	<b>C</b>	2.0	<b>73-76</b>
	<b>C-</b>	1.7	<b>70-72</b>
<b>Poor/Minimal Pass.</b> D+ or D is earned by work that demonstrates minimal familiarity with the course material. Grades in the D range generally indicate insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.	<b>D+</b>	1.3	<b>65-69</b>
	<b>D</b>	1.0	<b>60-64</b>
<b>Failure.</b>	<b>F</b>	0.0	<b>0-59</b>

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