

*Senior Research Seminar: Twentieth-Century Irish Drama*

English 485 (24316); Spring 2014

Professor Shaffer (300 Palmer Hall; \*3976)

Buckman Hall 105: TR: 12:30-1:45 pm

Office Hours: TR: 1:45-3:00 pm (and by appointment)

No nation in the English-speaking world has produced as many important dramatists, and as many influential plays, over the past century as Ireland. This course will survey modern Ireland's dramatic tradition against the backdrop of relevant political and cultural developments, from the establishment of Ireland's national theatre early in the century, through Ireland's reemergence as an autonomous nation and its bloody civil war in the teens and twenties, through its inward-looking, mid-century cultural paralysis, to its "Celtic Tiger" boom of the nineties. We will explore the ways in which a number of canonical and contemporary Irish plays engage in a dialogue with each other, with various theatrical conventions, and with key articulations of Irish national identity. The course will culminate in a major research project.

Course Texts:

Beckett, Samuel. *Waiting for Godot*

Friel, Brian. *Faith Healer*

Friel, Brian. *Molly Sweeney*

Harrington, J. *Norton Crit. Ed. of Modern and Contemporary Irish Drama*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (N)

Keane, John B. *The Field and Other Irish Plays*

McDonagh, Martin. *The Lieutenant of Inishmore*

Richards, Shaun. *Cambridge Companion to Twentieth-Century Irish Drama*

Class Policy:

Written work submitted late will be penalized at the rate of one letter grade per 24-hour period. One unexcused absence per semester will be allowed; two or more will negatively affect your final grade. Failure to complete any major assignment or to attend class on a regular basis will result in a failing grade in the course. All work for this course must be done in strict compliance with the Rhodes Honor Code.

Requirements:

Two critical essays of 5-6 pages each (1500-1800 words): 25%

One research essay of 18-20 pages (5400-6000 words): 50%

Participation, attendance, presentations, reading quizzes: 25%

Reading and writing assignments are due on the class dates listed below. Bring the appropriate text(s) to class each day.

Thursday	<b>Jan 9</b>	Course Introduction
Tuesday	14	Gregory/Yeats, <i>Cathleen ni Houlihan</i> ; <i>The Rising of the Moon</i> (N)
Thursday	16	Gregory/Yeats, and the Birth of the Irish National Theatre
Tuesday	21	Synge, <i>Riders to the Sea</i> (N)
Thursday	23	Synge, <i>The Shadow of the Glen</i>

Tuesday	28	Synge, <i>The Playboy of the Western World</i> (N)
Thursday	30	<i>Playboy</i>
Tuesday	<b>Feb 4</b>	O'Casey, <i>Juno and the Paycock</i> (N)
Thursday	6	<i>Juno</i>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>First Critical Essay Due</b> (at Noon; hard copy and Turnitin.com)
Tuesday	11	Beckett, <i>Waiting for Godot</i>
Thursday	13	<i>Godot</i>
Tuesday	18	Keane, <i>The Field</i>
Thursday	20	Keane, <i>The Field</i> and <i>Big Maggie</i>
Tuesday	25	Keane, <i>Big Maggie</i>
Thursday	27	Friel, <i>Faith Healer</i>
Tuesday	<b>Mar 4</b>	Friel, <i>Faith Healer</i> and <i>Molly Sweeney</i>
Thursday	6	Friel, <i>Molly Sweeney</i>
Tuesday	11	Spring Break
Thursday	13	Spring Break
<b>Monday</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Second Critical Essay Due</b> (at Noon; hard copy and Turnitin.com)
Tuesday	18	Library/Online Research Orientation (meet in Library Lobby)
Thursday	20	McPherson, <i>The Weir</i> (N)
Tuesday	25	<i>Weir</i>
Thursday	27	McDonagh, <i>The Lieutenant of Inshimore</i>
Tuesday	<b>Apr 1</b>	<i>Lieutenant</i>
Thursday	3	Conferences: One-page Text(s)/Topic Proposal
<b>Monday</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>Annotated Bibliography/Research Essay Proposal Due</b>
Tuesday	8	Presentation of Research Proposals/ Q&A feedback
Thursday	10	Presentation of Research Proposals/ Q&A feedback
<b>Monday</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>First five-Six Pages of Research Essay Due</b> (at Noon)
Tuesday	15	Conferences on Research Essays in Progress
Thursday	17	Easter Break
Tuesday	22	Research Essay Presentations
Thursday	24	Research Essay Presentations
<b>Monday</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>Research Essay Due</b> (at Noon; hard copy and Turnitin.com)