



## ENGL 485-02, Senior Seminar: Twentieth-Century Irish Drama, Fall 2014

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Senior Research Seminar: Twentieth-Century Irish Drama  
 English 485, section 2; crn: 15289; fall 2014  
 208 Palmer Hall: TR: 12:30-1:45 pm  
 Professor Shaffer: 300 Palmer Hall; \*3976  
 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 (7):

Beckett, Samuel. *Waiting for Godot*  
 Friel, Brian. *Aristocrats*  
 Friel, Brian. *Faith Healer*  
 Harrington, John, ed. *Norton Critical Edition of Modern and Contemporary Irish Drama*, 2nd ed. (N)  
 Keane, John B. *The Field and Other Irish Plays*  
 McDonagh, Martin. *The Beauty Queen of Leenane and Other Plays*  
 Richards, Shaun, ed. *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 pages each (approx. 1500 words): 25%  
 One research essay of 18 pages (approx. 5400 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>August 28</b>	Course Introduction
Tuesday	<b>September 2</b>	Gregory/Yeats, <i>Cathleen ni Houlihan</i> (N)
Thursday	4	Gregory, <i>The Rising of the Moon</i> (N)
Tuesday	9	Synge, <i>Riders to the Sea</i> (N)
Thursday	11	Synge, <i>The Shadow of the Glen</i> (photocopy)
Tuesday	16	Synge, <i>The Playboy of the Western World</i> (N)
Thursday	18	<i>Playboy</i>
Tuesday	23	<i>Playboy</i>
Thursday	25	O'Casey, <i>Juno and the Paycock</i> (N)
Tuesday	30	<i>Juno</i>
Wednesday	<b>October 1</b>	<b>First Critical Essay Due</b> (turnitin.com)
Thursday	October 2	Beckett, <i>Waiting for Godot</i>
Tuesday	7	<i>Godot</i>
Thursday	9	Keane, <i>Big Maggie</i>
Tuesday	14	Friel, <i>Aristocrats</i>

Thursday	16	Friel, <i>Aristocrats</i> and <i>Faith Healer</i>
Tuesday	21	Fall Break
Thursday	23	<i>Faith Healer</i>
Tuesday	28	Friel, <i>Translations</i> (N)
Thursday	30	<i>Translations</i>
Friday	31	<b>Second Critical Essay Due</b> (turnitin.com)
Tuesday	<b>November 4</b>	McPherson, <i>The Weir</i> (N)
Thursday	6	<i>Weir</i>
Friday	7	<b>Research Topic Proposal Due</b> (email)
Tuesday	11	McDonagh, <i>The Beauty Queen of Leenane</i>
Thursday	13	McDonagh, <i>A Skull in Connemara</i>
Tuesday	18	McDonagh, <i>The Lonesome West</i>
Wednesday	19	<b>Annotated Bibliography Due</b> (email); optional research orientation
Thursday	20	Presentation of Research Proposals/Q&A Feedback
Tuesday	25	Presentation of Research Proposals/Q&A Feedback
Thursday	27	Thanksgiving Break
Monday	<b>December 1</b>	<b>First Pages and Outline of Research Essay Due</b> (email)
Tuesday	December 2	Conferences on Research Essays in Progress
Thursday	4	Research Essay Presentations
Tuesday	9	Research Essay Presentations
Tuesday	16	<b>Research Essay Due</b> (turnitin.com)