

**HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**  
**SYLLABUS**

**İKA 640 Irish Poetry in English**

**2014-2015 Autumn**

**Associate Prof Dr Huriye Reis**

**Class Hours: Tuesday, 9:00-12:50 Seminar Room**

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**Course Description**

This course introduces and studies Irish poetry in English in its historical, socio-cultural and literary contexts, focusing on its beginnings and tracing its development in the 18<sup>th</sup> century through the Celtic Revival to the present. It reads particularly Jonathan Swift and his satirical poetry, Oscar Wilde and Art for Art's Sake Movement, William Butler Yeats and the Celtic Revival, selected twentieth-century Irish poets and the contemporaries. The course thus studies main Northern Irish poets such as Seamus Heaney and Paul Muldoon and contemporary poets as Thomas Kinsella, Paul Durcan, Eavan Boland, Paula Meehan and Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill.

**Course Outline**

**Week I&II:** Introduction to Irish Poetry, its origins and historical continuities. Eighteenth Century Irish poetry, Jonathan Swift and nationalist poets and constructing a tradition in Irish poetry,

**Week III&IV:** 19<sup>th</sup> century in Irish poetry, Oscar Wilde, William Butler Yeats and the Revival

**Week V&VI:** 20<sup>th</sup> century, mid-century and individual poets: Austin Clarke (1896-1974), Patrick Kavanagh (1904-1967), John Hewitt (1907-1987)

**Week VIII&IX:** Richard Murphy (b.1927) Thomas Kinsella (b.1928)

**Week IX&X:** Eavan Boland, (b 1944), Paula Meehan (b 1955), Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill,

**Week X&XI:** Seamus Heaney (1939-2013)

**Week XII:** Michael Longley, (b 1939) Paul Durcan (b 1944)

**XIII:** Derek Mahon, (b 1941)

**Week XIV:** Ciaran Carson (b 1948) Paul Muldoon (b 1951)

**Requirements:** Attendance is obligatory. Class participation is essential. Students are expected to prepare their discussions in writing and present their views orally and clearly. Students are to prepare two papers on their choice of topics in the syllabus, which they will present in the class orally. They are expected to submit their papers for evaluation one week after the presentation. There will be a final exam.

**Assessment:** Assessment will be made on class discussion, research papers and/or midterms and a final exam, each graded accordingly. Students will be expected to participate in class discussions and develop a critical and analytical approach to the poets and poetry studied in the course.

**Paper I: 20%**

**Paper II: 20%**

**Class participation and contribution: 10%**

**Final exam: 50%**

**Suggested Reading:**

Brearton, Fran. *The Great War in Irish poetry : W.B. Yeats to Michael Longley*. Oxford ; New York : Oxford University Press, 2000.

Hufstader, Jonathan. *Tongue of water, teeth of stones: Northern Irish poetry and social violence*. Lexington : University Press of Kentucky, c1999.

Schirmer, Gregory A. *Out of what began : a history of Irish poetry in English*. Ithaca, NY Cornell University , 1998.

Gonzalez, Alexander G. Gonzalez. Ed. *Contemporary Irish women poets: some male perspectives*. Westport, Conn. : Greenwood , 1999.

Sewell, Frank. *Modern Irish poetry : a new Alhambra*. Oxford: Oxford Univ., 2000

Corcoran, Neil. *Poets of modern Ireland : text, context, intertext*. Carbondale : Southern Illinois University , 1999.