COURSE SYLLABUS

University of St. Thomas
Spring 2015

IRST 1331-A (Course Number: 1258)
Elementary Irish Language and Culture I

CLASS MEETS Tue and Thurs 2:10-3:25PM
UST Building #57 on UST Map

Room: William J. Flynn Center for Irish Studies
4206 Yoakum Blvd., Upstairs Library/Reading Room

This syllabus is subject to change.


Office: William J. Flynn Center for Irish Studies
4206 Yoakum Blvd. Room 201

Telephone: Direct Dial: 713-525-3882
Main Number for Flynn Center for Irish Studies: 713-525-3592

E-mail: kellehe@stthom.edu

Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays 9-11AM. Please make an appointment to visit me in or out of office hours.

COURSE OUTLINE

This course provides an introduction to Irish language and culture for students who have no previous knowledge of the language. The core material of the course will be based on four thematic units, which are as follows:

Unit 1: Meeting People
Unit 2: Place and Background
Unit 3: The Family
Unit 4: Pastimes
Much of the material for these units is from *Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge* /The European Certificate in Irish. For more information about this certificate, including a full syllabus, see www.teg.ie.

Additional material from the course handbook and class handouts will be used to supplement these thematic units.

In addition to the linguistic element of this course, students will be given the opportunity to explore aspects of Irish culture, including history, folklore, music, song and dance.

**PREREQUISITES**

Admission to University of St. Thomas for credit or audit.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

On completion of this course, students should have acquired the following skills at a basic level:

1. **Pronunciation**: Students should be familiar with the sounds of the Irish language, particularly those not found in the English language.

2. **Speaking**: Students should be able to use simple vocabulary, phrases and sentence structures relating to everyday life and the topics they have covered.

3. **Listening**: Students should be able to understand simple speech that is delivered in a slow, careful and articulated manner.

4. **Reading**: Students should be able to understand short, simple texts relating to the topics they have studied, with the aid of a dictionary.

5. **Writing**: Students should be able to write simple words and sentences, with the aid of a dictionary.

6. Students should become more **aware of language-learning strategies** suited to their own individual learning style, and begin to develop as autonomous learners.

7. Students should also develop a **socio-cultural awareness** of the Irish language and the cultural context in which it is spoken.
INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD

The Instructor will adopt the communicative approach in the classroom. Therefore, tasks in classes will be centered mainly on pair and/or group work. Irish/Gaeilge will be the language used as much as possible. The thematic approach will be central to the course when dealing with content. Grammar will be introduced only in context to the material being covered. Due to the nature of the course, participation in the class is vital. It is the heart of learning any new language. Ten percent (10%) of the total marks for this module will therefore go towards participation in class.

Requests for excused absences must be made in advance by e-mail: kellehe@stthom.edu. Repeated absences will incur grading penalties. See Attendance Policy below.

PRACTICE OPPORTUNITES

All students must choose at least ONE of the following options:

A– Independent Practice.
Students must listen to/watch 30 minutes of Irish-language radio or television weekly, and complete report sheets accordingly. Ten reports to be submitted in total. (Radio and television stations are available online. Report sheets and a list of relevant links and programs are provided in the course handbook and on Blackboard.)

OR

B- Rosetta Stone.
The Center has been fortunate to acquire the Rosetta Stone for Gaeilge. Students have the option of taking one lesson a week and must write a report (ten in total) on their progress and make note of anything new they have learned. Audio files that accompany this software are available on Blackboard.

You do not have to stick to one option. You can pick one option each week.
CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

Students will be expected to attend/participate in at least 5 cultural events/activities organized by the Flynn Center for Irish Studies or the Irish Club during the semester, and to submit a one-page report on each of these events/activities. Students who cannot attend at least 5 events may make alternative arrangements for the fulfillment of this component of the course. Please consult the instructor for further details.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Participation (10%): Students will be graded according to attendance, active participation in class and completion of all homework assignments. Late work will not be accepted. Online Assignments are due before the start of class. Please check with me if you are in doubt as to what is due or when exams will be held. Ultimately, YOU are responsible for knowing when things are due. You must check your UST email regularly!

Cultural Enrichment (5%): See details above.

Unit Review Tests (20%): Students will be given short exams in class when units are covered. These unit review tests include examples of questions that are to be expected in the midterm and final examination.

Guided/Independent Practice (5%): See details above.

Midterm exam (20%): This exam will be held on March 5th, and will cover Units I & II.

Oral exams (10%): Will be scheduled in the last week of class.

Final exam (30%): Reading, writing, and aural comprehension skills will be assessed in a final comprehensive exam.

GRADE SCALE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77-79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70-72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60-66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
ACADEMIC DISHONESTY

Based upon the University Policy on Academic Dishonesty, every offense against academic honesty seriously undermines the teaching-learning process for which the University exists, and such offenses will be dealt with expeditiously according to the following criteria:

Definition
Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to:
1. Cheating on an examination or test; for example, by copying from another’s paper or using unauthorized materials before or during the test;
2. Plagiarism, which represents as one’s own the work of another, whether published or not, without acknowledging the precise source;
3. Knowing participation in the academic dishonesty of another student, even though one’s own work is not directly affected; and/or
4. Any conduct which reasonable persons in similar circumstances would recognize as dishonest in an academic setting.

Penalty
The penalty for an incident of academic dishonesty is, at the discretion of the faculty member, either a mark of zero for the work in question or the grade of “F” for the course.

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Note: Attendance of each class period is required. If a student is unable to attend class, he/she should telephone/e-mail the professor before the class period or as soon as possible after class. It is the student’s responsibility to catch up on any material missed before the next class period.

Three absences without good reason will result in the final grade being lowered by a letter grade. The overall final grade will be lowered by one percent for each subsequent absence. Two tardies (will include leaving early from class) will equal one absence.

CLASSROOM CONDUCT

Please do not use beepers, cellular telephones or Blackberries in class and turn them off or on vibrate upon arrival. If an outside emergency arises, please have outside parties contact campus security at (713) 525-3888 and security will contact us in class. Please do not use email or the internet during class (including Palm Pilots, Blackberries or other similar devices). Eating in class is not permitted unless special arrangements have been made with the instructor. Chewing gum is strictly prohibited. Please be on time for class!
DISABILITY ACCOMMODATIONS

Any student with a documented disability needing academic accommodations is requested to speak with the Instructor as early as possible. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities also need to contact Counseling and Disability Services in Crooker Center. This office can be reached at (713) 525-2169 or 6953.

REQUIRED CLASS MATERIALS

Course handbook: Elementary Irish (provided by Instructor)


Briathra na Gaeilge – Glancecard.

Audio, video and other supplementary materials available on Blackboard.

Additional books and resources available on request from the Flynn Center for Irish Studies – ask instructor for details.

FINAL EXAMINATION

Date: TBA. Venue: The William J. Flynn Center for Irish Studies.

REPORTS/ ASSIGNMENTS DUE

1. Five Independent/ Guided Practice Reports due-March 5th.

2. Five Independent/ Guided Practice Reports due-April 30th.

3. Five Cultural Enrichment Reports due the day of the Final Exam: May 12.

4. Final Exam: Tues May 12, 3-5:30PM

*** These reports must be typed and e-mailed to me at kellehe@stthom.edu only. I will not accept written reports.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Theme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1    | Tue 13\textsuperscript{th} Jan  
Thurs 15\textsuperscript{th} Jan | Introduction  
Unit 1: Meeting People                   |
| 2    | Tue 20\textsuperscript{th} Jan  
Thurs 22\textsuperscript{nd} Jan   | Unit 1: Meeting People  
Unit 1: Meeting People                    |
| 3    | Tue 27\textsuperscript{st} Jan  
Thurs 29\textsuperscript{th} Jan   | Unit 1: Meeting People  
Unit 1: Meeting People                    |
| 4    | Tue 3\textsuperscript{rd} Feb  
Thurs 5\textsuperscript{th} Feb      | Unit 1 Review Test  
Unit 2: Place and Background              |
| 5    | Tue 10\textsuperscript{th} Feb  
Thurs 12\textsuperscript{nd} Feb     | Unit 2: Place and Background  
Unit 2: Place and Background              |
| 6    | Tue 17\textsuperscript{th} Feb  
Thurs 19\textsuperscript{th} Feb     | Unit 2: Place and Background  
Unit 2: Place and Background              |
| 7    | Tue 24\textsuperscript{th} Feb  
Thurs 26\textsuperscript{th} Feb     | Unit 2 Review Test  
Unit 3: The Family                        |
| 8    | Tue 3\textsuperscript{rd} Mar  
Thurs 5\textsuperscript{th} Mar      | Unit 3: The Family  
MIDTERM EXAM (UNITES I & II)  
FIVE INDEPENDENT REPORTS DUE              |
| 9    | Tue 10\textsuperscript{th} Mar  
Thurs 12\textsuperscript{nd} Mar     | NO CLASSES- MIDTERM BREAK                 |
| 10   | Tue 17\textsuperscript{th} Mar  
Thurs 19\textsuperscript{th} Mar     | Unit 3: The Family  
Unit 3: The Family                        |
| 11   | Tue 24\textsuperscript{th} Mar  
Thurs 26\textsuperscript{th} Mar     | Unit 3: The Family  
Unit 3 Review Test                         |
| 12   | Tue 31\textsuperscript{st} Mar  
Thurs 2\textsuperscript{nd} Apr      | Unit 4: Pastimes  
NO CLASSES- EASTER BREAK                   |
| 13   | Tue 7\textsuperscript{th} Apr  
Thurs 9\textsuperscript{th} Apr      | Unit 4: Pastimes  
Unit 4: Pastimes                          |
| 14   | Tue 14\textsuperscript{th} Apr  
Thurs 16\textsuperscript{th} Apr     | Unit 4: Pastimes  
Unit 4: Pastimes                          |
| 15   | Tue 21\textsuperscript{st} Apr  
Thurs 23\textsuperscript{rd} Apr     | Unit 4: Review Test  
ORAL EXAMINATIONS                         |
| 16   | Tue 28\textsuperscript{th} Apr  
Thurs 30\textsuperscript{th} Apr     | Final Exam Review  
Final Exam Review                          |
| 17   | Tue 12 May        | Final Exam 3-5:30PM  
Cultural Reports due                      |
### Cultural Outreach Events  
*Irish Club events to be announced*  

Extra Credit given to students who attend the lecture in February and the concert in April. Contact instructor for more details.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Wednesday, February 4th, 2015 | Dr. Brian Giemza, Director of the Southern Historical Collection at the University of North Carolina.  
*Irish Catholic Southerners, Becoming American: A Literary Odyssey.*  
When: 7 pm  
Where: Cullen Hall  
Free and open to the public |
| Tuesday, March 17th, 2015 | Annual St. Patrick’s Day Celebration  
Mass Celebrated by Fr. Brendan Cahill  
When: 10:30 am  
Where: Chapel of St. Basil  
Brunch following Mass:  
Jerabeck Gymnasium (Scanlan Room)  
Free but must RSVP  
**RSVP requested for Breakfast**  
by Friday, March 6th, 2015  
to 713-525-3592 or irishstudies@stthom.edu |
| Wednesday, April 15th, 2015 | Patrick Ball, Celtic Harper and Dramatist  
*O’Carolan’s Farewell to Music.*  
When: 7:00 pm  
Where: Cullen Hall  
Adults: $15; seniors: $10; UST faculty, staff and students free. |