University of St. Thomas  
COURSE SYLLABUS – Spring 2015

Special Topics in Irish Studies: IRST 4393-NA (Course Number 1260)  
Intermediate Irish Language and Culture I

CLASS MEETS: Tue 5:30PM - 8:15PM  
UST Building #57 on UST Map  
William J. Flynn Center for Irish Studies  
4206 Yoakum Blvd., Houston, TX 77006  
Room: 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

COURSE OUTLINE

This course is for students at Intermediate level who have completed Elementary Irish I and II. Much of the material for these units is from Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge/The European Certificate of Irish (Level A2). Elements of language learned from earlier classes will be developed and applied using the communicative method. Students will study these elements and objectives before class as each lecture will be task-based. Therefore, preparation is vital for this course and failure to prepare will
result in a poor grade for participation. The course plan follows the following topics:

**A: Conversation themes:**

1. Social Situations
2. The Family
3. Pastimes
4. Daily Travel
5. Work and Workplace
6. The Weekend

**B: Language Enrichment:**

1. Focus on phrases and expressions common in spoken language; and
2. Conjunctions, adverbs and “filler” words

Students will be given the opportunity to revise and build on vocabulary learned in their two previous Irish language and culture courses in the context of the seven conversation themes. Grammar will be reinforced through each of these thematic units.

**PREREQUISITES**

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

Successful completion of courses IRST 1331: Elementary Irish I; IRST 1332: Elementary Irish II.
**COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course, students should have developed the following skills:

1. **Pronunciation**: Students should now be familiar with the sounds of the Irish language and be able to reproduce them with relative accuracy.

2. **Speaking**: At this level, with preparation, students are able to conduct simple conversations about their daily lives. They are also able to convey simple opinions on things that affect them in their daily life. Predictability is important at this level, i.e. not having to give complex opinions.

3. **Listening**: Students at this level further develop listening and aural comprehension skills, and begin to understand speakers of various dialects, through focused work based on television, film and radio.

4. **Reading**: Students at this level can understand the general meaning of sources such as newspaper articles, magazines, brochures or notices related to pastimes, sport etc. They understand descriptions of events and emotions as they are portrayed in diary entries, letters and postcards.

5. **Writing**: Students at this level are able to write short notes, emails, letters, diary entries and descriptions, with the aid of a dictionary.

6. Students should now be aware of the **language-learning strategies** suited to their own needs and be developing as increasingly independent and autonomous learners.

7. Students further develop their knowledge and awareness of **socio-cultural** issues relating to the Irish language and its speakers.
INSTRUCTIONAL METHOD

The target language for this course will be Irish/Gaeilge, which will be the principal language of instruction and communication in the classroom. Grammar will be taught as it arises and always in the context of the topic addressed at the time. The approach will, therefore, be communicative, placing a keen emphasis on oral and aural skills. Students will be given the opportunity in each class to practice what they have learned, through drills, pair-work, group-work and role-play. Attendance is required and students are expected to participate and engage fully in all classroom activities.

Rosetta Stone Practice

Students must complete 15 lessons from levels one and two. Students will write a short report of what they have learned from the lesson.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT

Students who attend/participate in at least three cultural events/activities organized by the Flynn Center for Irish Studies or the Irish Club during the semester, will be rewarded extra credit of up to 5%. A written response paper is required for the extra credit.

ASSESSMENT AND GRADING

Homework (10%): Students will be graded according to attendance, preparation at home and their participation in class.

Unit Review Tests (20%): At the end of each unit, students will be given a test examining what was learned for that particular topic.

Rosetta Stone (15%): See details above.

Midterm exam (15%) Tuesday, March 24th, in class.

Oral exams (10%): Will be scheduled in the last week of class.
Final exam (30%): Reading, writing, and aural comprehension skills will be assessed. Date: Tuesday, May 12, 6-8:30PM.

Cultural Enrichment Reports are due the date of the Final Exam: Tuesday, May 12, 6-8:30PM.

GRADE SCALE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Range</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90-92</td>
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<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87-89</td>
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<td>B</td>
<td>83-86</td>
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<td>B-</td>
<td>80-82</td>
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<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0-59</td>
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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 afterward. 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 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 forbidden.

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 will also need to contact Counseling and Disability Services in Crooker Center to obtain an official letter to submit to the Instructor. This office can be reached at (713) 525-2169 or 6953.
CLASS MATERIALS

Course work will be provided on a week-to-week basis. Students are advised to keep all handouts and material in a well-kept folder. Material will also be available on Blackboard.


Wade, Elizabeth agus O’Toole, Yvonne: Graiméar an Draoi (Edco, 2004)

Briathra na Gaeilge – Glancecard

OTHER RECOMMENDED RESOURCES: Available at the Flynn Center for Irish Studies


Ó Dónaill, Niall: Foclóir Gaeilge-Beárla (An Gúm, Dublin: 1977)

Ó Murchú, Déaglán: Briathra na Gaeilge. (Folens, Dublin: 2005)
# COURSE CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Theme</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Tue 13(^{\text{th}}) Jan</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
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<td>Revision</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Tue 20(^{\text{th}}) Jan</td>
<td>Unit 1: Social Situations</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Tue 27(^{\text{th}}) Jan</td>
<td>Unit 1: Social Situations</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tue 3(^{\text{rd}}) Feb</td>
<td>Unit 2: The Family</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Tue 10(^{\text{th}}) Feb</td>
<td>Unit 2: The Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Tue 17(^{\text{th}}) Feb</td>
<td>Unit 3: Pastimes</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Tue 24(^{\text{th}}) Feb</td>
<td>Unit 3: Pastimes</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Tue 3(^{\text{rd}}) Mar</td>
<td>Unit 4: Daily Travel</td>
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<td><strong>SEVEN ROSETTA STONE REPORTS DUE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tue 10(^{\text{th}}) Mar</td>
<td>NO CLASSES- MIDTERM BREAK</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Tue 17(^{\text{th}}) Mar</td>
<td>Unit 4: Daily Travel</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Tue 24(^{\text{th}}) Mar</td>
<td><strong>MIDTERM EXAM (UNITS 1-4)</strong></td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Tue 31(^{\text{st}}) Mar</td>
<td>Unit 5: Work and Workplace</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Tue 7(^{\text{th}}) Apr</td>
<td>Unit 5: Work and Workplace</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Tue 14(^{\text{th}}) Apr</td>
<td>Unit 6: The Weekend</td>
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<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Tue 21(^{\text{st}}) Apr</td>
<td>Unit 6: The Weekend</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Tue 28(^{\text{th}}) Apr</td>
<td><strong>ORAL EXAMINATIONS</strong></td>
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<td>Final Exam Review</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>EIGHT ROSETTA STONE REPORTS DUE</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Tue 12(^{\text{th}}) May</td>
<td>Final Exam: 6 to 8:30 pm</td>
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<td>Cultural Enrichment Reports due</td>
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Course Calendar- Subject to change
### 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.

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Details</th>
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| 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. |