IRST1332: Elementary Irish Language and Culture II

Syllabus, Course Requirements, Texts and Assessment: Spring 2017
Instructor: Jonathan Ó Néill
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Phone: 713-525-3882
Office hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9:30 to 11:30 am (or by appointment)
Class schedule: Tuesday & Thursday, 2:10 to 3:25 pm

William J. Flynn Center for Irish Studies, 4206 Yoakum Blvd.

Course Description
This course continues an introduction to Irish language and culture. The course is intended for students who have completed Elementary Irish I. The syllabus will be based on the Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge/The European Certificate in Irish. More information on the certificate, a full syllabus, and examinations can be found at www.teg.ie.

The course will cover the following eight topics:

Topic 8: Work
Topic 9: Food and Drink
Topic 10: Health Matters
Topic 11: Clothes and Shopping
Topic 12: Requests and Commands
Topic 13: Last Weekend
Topic 14: Holidays and Travel
Topic 15: Making Arrangements
Learning Objectives
Upon successful completion of the course, students will have experience and clearly demonstrated abilities in:

Speaking and Listening
• Build on simple sentences to participate in conversations on topics and matters related to daily life.
• Improve knowledge of orthographic and pronunciation conventions in Irish.
• Comprehending simple speech delivered slowly and clearly.

Reading
• Understanding brief and simple texts related to their topics of study.
• Breaking down the semantics of sentences by locating nouns, verbs, etc.

Writing
• Writing short descriptive pieces about themselves and their background.

Additional
In addition to the above, students will have demonstrated, through reflective practice, an awareness of the language-learning strategies suited to their learning style. Students will also develop their knowledge of the sociolinguistics of Irish, including its historical and cultural context.

Class Structure & Methodology
The class meets twice per week over 2 ½ contact hours; however, as language acquisition is a challenging process, students are expected to budget at least 6 hours per week for their language acquisition activities. The structure of the class and assessments reflect this expectation. The Teastas Eorpaigh na Gaeilge makes use of the communicative method, whereby emphasis is placed on gaining a communicative ability in the course topics. This method usually discusses grammar as it arises, but time will be devoted to acquainting students with some of the grammatical features of Irish. As with all language classes, attendance and active participation in class activities is particularly important.

Practice Opportunities
A – Guided Practice
Students will be given the opportunity to practice their Irish in an informal social setting at a weekly lunch-time or other gathering. Day and time TBC.

OR
B - Independent Practice
Students must listen to/ watch 30 minutes of Irish-language radio / television/YouTube weekly, and complete report sheets accordingly. 5 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 on Blackboard.)

Cultural Enrichment
Students will be expected to attend/ participate in at least 3 cultural events/ activities organized by the 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 3 events may choose their own special studies topic (related to the language) for the fulfillment of this component of the course. Please consult the instructor for further details.

Assessment
All assignments are to be submitted through Blackboard. Assessment deadlines are available in the below course schedule and on Blackboard.

Weekly Irish web page* 30%
Cultural Enrichment 05%
Guided/Independent Practice 10%
Midterm Exam 10%
Oral Exam 10%
Final Exam 35%

*Web Page
Each week you will design and create a web page based on what you have learned in class. Each page should be designed as an instructional resource – how you would introduce and teach the language to a complete beginner. The web page will be due before midnight each Friday.

Grade Scale
A 93-100  B- 80-82  D+ 67-69
A- 90-92  C+ 77-79  D  60-66
B+ 87-89  C  73-76  F  0-59
B  83-86  C- 70-72
**Academic Integrity**

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;

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.

For more information on the universities policies regarding academic integrity please see: [http://libguides.stthom.edu/plagiarism](http://libguides.stthom.edu/plagiarism)

(See next page for schedule)
## Course Schedule (subject to change)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week Beginning</th>
<th>Class Topic</th>
<th>Cultural Events</th>
<th>Assessment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Jan 19</td>
<td>Th: Introduction &amp;  Revision</td>
<td></td>
<td>Web Page – before midnight every Friday</td>
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<td>2. Jan 23</td>
<td>T: Topic 8</td>
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<td>Web Page – before midnight every Friday</td>
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<td>Th: Topic 8</td>
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<td>3. Jan 30</td>
<td>T: Topic 8</td>
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<td>Web Page – before midnight every Friday</td>
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<td>Th: Topic 9</td>
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<td>4. Feb 6</td>
<td>T: Topic 9</td>
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<td>Web Page – before midnight every Friday</td>
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<td>Th: Topic 9</td>
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<td>5. Feb 13</td>
<td>T: Topic 10</td>
<td>Thursday, February 16. Come Dance with Me in Ireland: Encounters with W.B. Yeats by Patrick Ball. (Cullen Hall, 7 p.m.)</td>
<td>Web Page – before midnight every Friday</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Th: Topic 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>6. Feb 20</td>
<td>T: Topic 10</td>
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<td>Web Page – before midnight every Friday</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Th: Midterm</td>
<td>MIDTERM, Thurs, February 23rd</td>
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<td>7. Feb 27</td>
<td>T: Topic 11</td>
<td>Thursday, March 2. EVA – International Contemporary Folk and Harmony Group. (Cullen Hall, 7 p.m.)</td>
<td>Web Page – before midnight every Friday</td>
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<td>Th: Topic 11</td>
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<td>8. March 6</td>
<td>T: Topic 11</td>
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<td>Web Page – before midnight every Friday</td>
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<td>Th: Topic 12</td>
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<td><strong>Spring Break</strong></td>
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<td>Friday, March 17. Annual St. Patrick’s Day Celebration. (Scanlan Room, RSVP required)</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
<td>Event Details</td>
<td>Notes</td>
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<td>9. March 20</td>
<td>T: 12 T: 12</td>
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<td>Web Page – before midnight every Friday</td>
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<td>10. March 27</td>
<td>T: 13 T: 13</td>
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<td>Web Page – before midnight every Friday</td>
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<td>11. April 3</td>
<td>T: 13 T: 14</td>
<td>Tuesday, April 4. Irish Contributions to the Science of Medicine. (Jones Hall, 7 p.m.)</td>
<td>Web Page – before midnight every Friday</td>
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<td>12. April 10</td>
<td>T: 14</td>
<td><strong>Th: Easter Break</strong></td>
<td>Web Page – before midnight every Friday</td>
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<td>13. April 17</td>
<td>T: 14 T: 15</td>
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<td>Web Page – before midnight every Friday</td>
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<td>14. April 24</td>
<td>T: 15 T: 15</td>
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<td>Web Page – before midnight every Friday</td>
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<td>15. May 1</td>
<td>T: Revision</td>
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<td>Web Page – before midnight every Friday</td>
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<td>May 11, Thursday</td>
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<td><strong>FINAL EXAM 3:00-5:30PM</strong></td>
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<td>May 22</td>
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<td>Final Grades Released to Students.</td>
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**Disability Accommodations**
Students with a documented disability needing academic accommodations are requested to make an appointment to meet with me at their earliest convenience. Please do not discuss these issues during class time as I cannot guarantee confidentiality. Students with disabilities will also need to contact Counseling and Disability Services in Croker Center. The contact details for this office are (713) 525-2169 or 6953, and cds@stthom.edu.