University of Calgary
Department of Communication, Media and Film

Communications Studies COMS 401.17 L02
Special Topics in Communications Studies: Irish Myth and Culture

Spring 2016

Mon., 9 May – Thur., 30 June (field dates 5-26 May)
Pre-Departure Sessions: 8 February; 28 April; 2, 3, 4 May

Instructor:	Dr. A. Mary Murphy
Office:	n/a
Office Phone:	n/a
E-Mail:	ammurphy@ucalgary.ca
Web Page:	D2L available through MyUofC portal
Office Hours:	n/a

Course Description and Objectives
In every culture, myth is not simply a collection of stories, but a system that can be seen to have residual effect in a variety of ways. In this course, students will start by reading a collection of Irish myths to ground themselves in the fundamental stories and signs of Irish culture. Students will test the notion that "every culture invents its future by reinventing its past,"[1] by investigating the construction and representation of myth in Irish film, television, advertising, politics, arts, crafts, history, and so on.

Textbooks and Readings
Any collection of Irish myth, such as:
Gregory, Augusta. *Cuchulain of Muirthemne*.
---. *Gods and Fighting Men*.
Heaney, Marie. *Over Nine Waves*.
Kinsella, Thomas. *The Táin*.

Additional Information
It is important not to confuse fairy lore with Irish myth, although they intersect. If students are considering versions other than Gregory, Heaney, and Kinsella, they should consult the instructor. In addition, a number of short podcasts relevant to this outline and its assignments, will be uploaded to D2L, for ongoing reference.

Internet and electronic communication device information
Students need to be aware that in-field access and speed often are not what they are accustomed to in Canada. While wifi is available throughout the programme, *en masse* messaging, uploading, downloading, and researching will overload systems and render them unresponsive. **For everyone's sake, please be mindful that priority needs to be given to researching rather than Facebooking.**

---

[1] Pierce, David. *Irish Writing in the Twentieth Century*. Cork UP, 2000: 1285.

Assignments and Evaluation

Research Journal: 45% (#1 @20% and #2 @ 25%) (Partner Assignment)
Two installments of 1500 words each will be submitted via D2L on **17 May** and **23 May**. Each installment should include observations, considerations, and analysis of myth in culture; each installment MUST offer evidence of myth and culture research as described in "Course Description and Objectives." **Please note that fairy lore is not identical with Irish myth, although there is some overlap**. Be sure to focus on myth as found in a recommended or approved text. Entries might discuss two or three elements of myth, but no more. Entries must not be dominated by plot summary or exposition; those that are will be penalized.

Take-Home Exam: 45%
The exam will be posted as a module in D2L well in advance but at least two days prior to the due date. It will test content and analysis connecting the texts to the itinerary. It will be a multi-section exam, including a selection of short answer, epistle, matching, multiple choice, and short essay questions. Completed exams should be deposited in the dropbox folder on **26 May**.

Participation: 10%
Students will be provided with a rubric for detailing participation. Submit the required document via D2L **26 May**.

Registrar-scheduled Final Examination: No

You do not need to complete all assignments and exams in order to receive a passing grade in the course.

Submission of Assignments: Assignments will be submitted using designated folders in the D2L dropbox.

Please include your name and ID number on all assignments, and be prepared to provide picture ID to pick up assignments or look at final exams in SS 320 after classes have ended. Personal information is collected in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*. For more information, see http://www.ucalgary.ca/secretariat/privacy

Note: It is the student's responsibility to keep a copy of each submitted assignment. For courses in which assignments are submitted electronically, it is the student's responsibility to ensure that the correct copy of the assignment is submitted. (Including the version date or version number in your file name may help you avoid submitting the wrong version of your written assignments.)

Policy for Late Assignments
Assignments submitted after the deadline will be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

Student Accommodations

Students seeking an accommodation based on disability or medical concerns should contact Student Accessibility Services; SAS will process the request and issue letters of accommodation to instructors. For additional information on support services and accommodations for students with disabilities, visit www.ucalgary.ca/access/.

Students who require an accommodation in relation to their coursework based on a protected ground other than disability should communicate this need in writing to their Instructor. The full policy on Student Accommodations is available at http://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy.pdf.

- Students seeking accommodation for transient illnesses (e.g., the flu) should contact their instructors. Whenever possible, students should advise their instructors in advance if they will be missing quizzes, presentations, in-class assignments, or group meetings.

- When accommodations are granted, they may take forms other than make-up tests or assignments. For example, the weight of a missed grade may be added to another assignment or test.

- For information on Deferrals of Final Exams and Term Work, see sections G.6 and G.7 of the *University Calenda*r at http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-6.html and http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/g-7.html

Writing Skills Statement

Department policy directs that all written assignments (including, to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. For details see http://comcul.ucalgary.ca/needtoknow. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc) but also general clarity and organization. Sources used in research papers must be properly documented. If you need help with your writing, you may use the Writing Centre. Visit the website for more details: http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support

Grading & Grade Scale of the Department of Communication, Media and Film

Final grades are reported as letter grades. Assignments are all graded using letter grades, except the participation grade, which is numeric.

The following chart outlines the grade scale percentage equivalents used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film. In calculating final grades in this course, letter grades will be converted to the midpoint of the percentage range, as shown in the final column of the table below.

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Dept of CMF grade scale equivalents*	Letter grade % equivalent for calculations* *
4.00	Outstanding	**A+**	96 - 100%	98.0%
4.00	Excellent—superior performance, showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.	**A**	90 - 95.99%	93.0%
3.70		**A -**	85 - 89.99%	87.5%
3.30		**B+**	80 - 84.99%	82.5%

3.00	Good--clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.	**B**	75 - 79.99%	77.5%
2.70		**B-**	70 - 74.99%	72.5%
2.30		**C+**	65 - 69.99%	67.5%
2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.	**C**	60 - 64.99%	62.5%
1.70		**C-**	55 - 59.99%	57.5%
1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject	**D+**	53 - 54.99%	54.0%
1.00		**D**	50 - 52.99%	51.5%
0.00	Fail – unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.	**F**	0- 49.99%	0%

* If percentages are used to calculate final grades, then grades falling within these ranges will be translated to the corresponding letter grades.

** These percentage equivalents will be used for calculating final grades unless an alternative method of final grade calculation is outlined above.

Plagiarism
Using any source whatsoever without clearly documenting it is a serious academic offense. Consequences include failure on the assignment, failure in the course and possibly suspension or expulsion from the university.

You must document not only direct quotations but also paraphrases and ideas where they appear in your text. A reference list at the end is insufficient by itself. In-text citations must other people's words and ideas begin. Wording taken directly from a source must be enclosed within quotation marks (or, for long quotations, presented in the format prescribed by the documentation style you are using). Paraphrased information must not follow the original wording and sentence structure with only slight word substitutions here and there. These requirements apply to all assignments and sources, including those in non-traditional formats such as Web pages or visual media.

For information on citation and documentation styles (including APA, Chicago, IEEE, MLA, and others), visit the links provided at https://ucalgary.ca/ssc/resources/writing-support/436 . If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3rd Floor TFDL, http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support).

Academic Misconduct
For information on academic misconduct and its consequences, please see the University of Calgary Calendar at http://www.ucalgary.ca/pubs/calendar/current/k.html

Research Ethics
Whenever you perform research with human participants (e.g., surveys, interviews, or observations) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve your research plans

and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/resources/ethics

Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about . . .	Visit or contact . . .
ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (ASC)	SS 102 403-220-3580 artsads@ucalgary.ca
CAMPUS SECURITY • **Calgary Police Service** • **Emergency Text Messaging** • **Emergency Evacuation & Assembly** • **Safewalk Program**	http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/ **403-220-5333** **403-266-1234 Emergency: call 911** http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort (**220-5333).** For more information, see http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/
DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support • **IT help line**	http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students 403-220-5555 or itsupport@ucalgary.ca
STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE • **Writing Support Services** • **Student Services Mobile App**	http://ucalgary.ca/ssc http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents
STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS • **Faculty of Arts Reps** • **Student Ombudsman**	 https://www.su.ucalgary.ca/about/who-we-are/elected-officials/ http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds
SU WELLNESS CENTRE • **Counselling Services** • **Health Services** • **Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE** • **Online resources and tips**	**403-210-9355** (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health **403-266-HELP (4357)** http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus If you're concerned about a friend or your own well-being, it is important to seek help early. Call or visit the SU Wellness Centre or the 24-hour crisis line.

Schedule of Lecture Topics and Readings

06 May	Reading Irish myth; In-field research in Belfast: Queen's University
07 May	Reading Irish myth; In-field research in Belfast: Ulster Museum
08 May	Reading Irish myth; In-field research in Belfast: Sectarian Murals
09 May	Reading Irish myth; In-field research in Derry: Bogside Murals
10 May	Reading Irish myth; In-field research in Derry: Museum of Free Derry
11 May	Reading Irish myth; In-field research in Sligo: Drumcliffe High Cross
12 May	assignment preparation day
13 May	Reading Irish myth; In-field research in Ballina: posters, broadsides
14 May	Reading Irish myth; In-field research in Roscommon: IRA Memorial
15 May	Reading Irish myth; In-field research in Roscommon: Rath Croghan Mound
16 May	assignment preparation day
17 May	Reading Irish myth; In-field research in Cork: Architecture Walk
18 May	Reading Irish myth; In-field research in Cork: Cobh Heritage Centre
19 May	Reading Irish myth; In-field research in Cork: English Market
20 May	Reading Irish myth; In-field research in Cork: War of Independence
21 May	Reading Irish myth; In-field research in Enniscorthy: 1798 Centre
22 May	Reading Irish myth; In-field research in Dublin: Garden of Remembrance
23 May	assignment preparation day
24 May	Reading Irish myth; In-field research in Dublin: Glasnevin Cemetery
25 May	Reading Irish myth; In-field research in Dublin: Hill of Tara
26 May	Take-Home Final