

**UNIVERSITY OF CALGARY**  
**Department of Communication, Media and Film**

**Ireland: Film, Art, Culture**  
**FILM 301.17 L01**  
**Topics in National Cinema: Irish Cinema**  
**Spring 2015**  
**Group Travel Study 6-28 May 2015**

**Instructor:** Dr. Glenn Wilkinson  
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**Office Hours:** By appointment

**Course Description**

The course examines Irish films and film history in the context of national history and culture. Ireland's film experience was not unlike Canada's: a location for mainstream Hollywood films and a local industry focused on shorts and documentaries. Nevertheless, since the origins of cinema, Irish filmmakers have been producing an indigenous filmography focused on Irish matters—nationalism, the Troubles, post-colonialism, the diaspora, the myth cycles, the mother. Since the establishment of the Irish Film Board in 1980, Irish filmmakers have been telling Irish stories in greater numbers and to worldwide audiences.

**Objectives of the Course**

This course is designed to encourage students to think about the recent 'Troubles' in Ireland in a much larger cultural and historical context. The course will be concerned with demonstrating that resistance to English and British authority in Ireland has been going on for centuries. Violence in Ireland should not just be seen in terms of sectarian conflict but as resistance to invasion, imperialism, and assimilation. This will be accomplished through a detailed examination of the films of Margo Harkin and other films that set the larger and greater context of Irish history. These perspectives reveal Irish views on violence, politics, culture, and community. Students will be expected to watch and become familiar with all four of the films of Margo Harkin and at least nine other films listed below.

**Textbooks and Readings**

Ruth Barton, *Irish National Cinema*, 2004, Routledge

**Filmography**

1. *Irish Destiny* (Dewhurst 1926)
2. *Mise Eire* (Morrison 1959)
3. *Saoirse* (Morrison 1961)
4. *Angel* (Jordan 1982)
5. *Hush-a-bye Baby* (**Harkin** 1990)
6. *The Treaty* (Lewis 1992)
7. *In the Name of the Father* (Sheridan 1993)

8. *Michael Collins* (Jordan 1996)
9. *12 Days in July* (**Harkin** 1997)
10. *Breakfast on Pluto* (Jordan 1997)
11. *The Crying Game* (Jordan 1997)
12. *The Boxer* (Sheridan 1997)
13. *Bloody Sunday* (Greengrass 2002)
14. *Bloody Sunday: A Derry Diary* (**Harkin** 2006)
15. *The Hunger Strike* (**Harkin** 2006)
16. *The Wind that Shakes the Barley* (Loach 2006)
17. *Five Minutes of Heaven* (Hirshbiegel 2008)
18. *Hunger* (McQueen 2008)

These films are on reserve at the Media Library in the TFDL (3<sup>rd</sup> floor).

### **Internet and electronic communication device information**

No restrictions on use of laptops in class if they are used to take notes and there is no disturbance of other students by visiting inappropriate websites.

### **Assignments and Evaluation**

#### **Thesis Statement and Annotated Bibliography: 20%**

Students will work create a thesis statement (an idea they wish to explore and defend) and an annotated bibliography of books, articles, reviews, and websites relating to a topic of their choice. You will be graded on criteria such as the clarity and completeness of the thesis statement, the quality of your sources, and the relevance of your annotations. Annotations should be about 3-4 sentences in length and connect your sources to your thesis statement. You should have at least 10 sources, though more might be helpful in order to get a well-rounded and complete picture of your topic.

**Due: April 29**

#### **Thematic Film Reviews: 15% X 2 = 30%**

Students will write 2 analytical film reviews of films from the filmography listed here. The first one must address all four of the films by Margo Harkin plus at least two others, while the second one must examine at least 7 films from the list. Students are expected to scrutinize in their reviews at least 13 films and arrange their work around a thesis of their choice. These reviews must avoid plot summary and must focus on aspects such as cultural meanings conveyed in the film, the context in which it was made, the veracity of filmic styles, and their relationship to each other. Reviews are to be 4-5 pages in length. Students are encouraged to screen the films before departure.

**Due: First Review: May 13 and Second Review: May 19**

#### **Film Synthesis: 40%**

Students will write a term paper that synthesises their views on Irish film in order to create a greater understanding of the relationship between context, culture, history, and film in the light of Irish resistance to English authority. Length should be between 10-12 pages.

**Due: June 19**

#### **Participation: 10%**

Participation requires more than merely showing up, but actively engaging with ideas, fellow students, and the professors.

**Registrar-scheduled Final Examination:** No

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

**Submission of Assignments:** Please use D2L to submit all assignments.

Please include your name and ID number on all assignments, and be prepared to provide picture ID to pick up assignments. 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 such as this one, 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 may be penalized with the loss of a grade (e.g.: A- to B+) for each day late.

**Students with Disabilities**

If you are a student with a disability who may require academic accommodation, it is your responsibility to register with the Student Accessibility Services (220-8237, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/access/>) and discuss your needs with your instructor no later than 14 days after the start of the course.

**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 System & Department of Communication, Media and Film

**Grade Scale** Work in this course will be graded using letter grades and percentage grades. The following grade scale percentage equivalents are used in the Department of Communication, Media and Film:

Grade Point Value	Description	Grade	Department 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	00 - 49.99%	0%

### 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 be provided, and readers must be able to tell exactly where your words and ideas end and 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 <http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/node/208> . If you have questions about how to document sources, please consult your instructor or the Writing Centre (3<sup>rd</sup> 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 (i.e. surveys, interviews, observation) as part of your university studies, you are responsible for following university research ethics guidelines. Your instructor must review and approve of your research plans and supervise your research. For more information about your research ethics responsibilities, see <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/research/research/research-ethics>

### Important information, services, and contacts for students

For information about . . .	Visit or contact . . .
<b>ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING (PIC)</b>	SS 102 403-220-3580 <a href="mailto:picarts@ucalgary.ca">picarts@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>CAMPUS SECURITY</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Calgary Police Service</li> <li>• Emergency Text Messaging</li> <li>• Emergency Evacuation &amp; Assembly</li> <li>• Safewalk Program</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/">http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/</a> <b>403-220-5333</b> <b>403-266-1234</b> <b>Emergency: call 911</b> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage">http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/textmessage</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints">http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints</a> If you feel uncomfortable walking alone at any time, call Campus Security for an escort ( <b>220-5333</b> ). For more information, see <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/">http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/</a>
<b>DESIRE2LEARN (D2L) Support</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IT help line</li> </ul>	<a href="http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students">http://elearn.ucalgary.ca/desire2learn/home/students</a> 403-220-5555 or <a href="mailto:itsupport@ucalgary.ca">itsupport@ucalgary.ca</a>
<b>STUDENT SUCCESS CENTRE</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Writing Support Services</li> <li>• Student Services Mobile App</li> </ul>	<a href="http://ucalgary.ca/ssc">http://ucalgary.ca/ssc</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support">http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc/writing-support</a> <a href="http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents">http://ucalgary.ca/currentstudents</a>
<b>STUDENTS' UNION CONTACTS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Faculty of Arts Reps</li> <li>• Student Ombudsman</li> </ul>	<a href="http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html">http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/governance/elections/home.html</a> <a href="http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds">http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds</a>

<p><b>SU WELLNESS CENTRE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Counselling Services</b></li><li>• <b>Health Services</b></li><li>• <b>Distress centre 24/7 CRISIS LINE</b></li><li>• <b>Online resources and tips</b></li></ul>	<p><b>403-210-9355</b> (MSC 370), M-F, 9:00–4:30 pm</p> <p><a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/counselling</a></p> <p><a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/health</a></p> <p><b>403-266-HELP (4357)</b></p> <p><a href="http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus">http://ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/healthycampus</a></p> <p>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.</p>
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