

Literature and Humanities

English (ENGL 2100) • Section D • Summer Term B, 2019 • Fully Online

Welcome Message

Welcome to this Summer Term B 2019 course: *Literature and Humanities*. The course is fully online. It opens at 8:00 am Eastern on Monday, June 24th, 2019, and runs for almost five weeks. The last day of course activity is Thursday, July 25th, 2019. Your instructor posts your final course grade (a letter grade) to WINGS before 12:00 pm noon on Friday, July 26th, 2019.

Name of Course	Course Abbreviation	Course Reference Number	Term	Delivery Method
<i>Literature and Humanities</i>	ENGL 2100, Section D (45 Students)	CRN 54290	Summer Term B, 2019	Online, from Monday, June 24 th through Thursday, July 25 th

Course Description and Objectives

Any Section of the course *Literature and Humanities* critically examines selected works of English-language literature with reference to the larger humanistic contexts that inform those works. The focus of this particular Section of *Literature and Humanities* is “Sidelines and Secrets in Irish and Irish-Diaspora Literature, 1900-1955.” All the works studied were written in the twentieth century, before 1955. While each of the works centers on one or more Irish protagonists, all of them possess a dimension foreign to Ireland. Furthermore, each work can be interrogated as expressing a sideline perspective and/or a secret. Humanistic thinking requires us to cultivate — and to act on the basis of — awareness of individuals and groups sidelined by the dominant society and, therefore, obliged to maintain secrets.

The objectives of the course are such that, at its conclusion, participating students will be able to:

- (1) Demonstrate the skill of close reading when describing and evaluating humanistic concerns in the assigned literary texts;
- (2) Produce historically informed critical analysis of the plot, the characters, and the issues of social marginalization that animate the assigned literary texts.

Course Methodology

In order to achieve its objectives, the course engages students in a “deep dive” into the assigned works of literature. We don’t cover a large number of literary texts; however, we do analyze our focal works in considerable detail. Georgia Southern University recommends that a student devotes a *minimum* of 15 hours per week to this Summer Term B course. Note the emphasis on *minimum*.

Five Weeks of Course Activity

Our course is divided into five sections, called Week One, Week Two, Week Three, Week Four, and Week Five. The “official” start for each Week is 8:00 am Eastern on the Monday of that Week. The material for a given Week will be accessible on our course’s Folio page no later than 11:00 pm Eastern on the prior Thursday. Thus, you can begin a given Week earlier than its “official” start day and time.

Instructor Supplies All Necessary Material

Your instructor supplies all the material (such as literary texts and lecture/exam notes) that you need to complete the course. You can access that material via the course’s Folio page.

How Your Course Grade Gets Calculated

Each Week, you can earn up to 50 points: 20 for a quiz and 30 for a test. A test may have more than one part or element. The above system yields a maximum total of 250 points for the course. To calculate your final grade as a percentage, simply multiply your points total by 0.4. For example, if your points total is 205, then your course grade as a percentage is 205 multiplied by 0.4, which equals 82%. Please consult the following table for the percentage-to-letter-grade calculus that the course uses:

Grade of "A"	90% and above	Grade of "B"	80% to 89.99%
Grade of "C"	70% to 79.99%	Grade of "D"	60% to 69.99%
Grade of "F"	Below 59.99%	Extra Credit	None Available

What Happens in Week One

Week One begins at 8:00 am on Monday, June 24th, 2019. Work due as part of Week One (i.e. a 20-point quiz and a 30-point exam) must be completed before 11:00 pm on the following Monday (July 1st, 2019).

During Week One, we study Unit A of James Joyce's short story "The Dead," written in 1907 and first published in 1914. Most likely, its setting is January 5th and 6th, 1904. Many critics and readers consider "The Dead" to be the finest short story ever written in the English language.

What Happens in Week Two

Week Two begins at 8:00 am on Monday, July 1st, 2019. Work due as part of Week Two (i.e. a 20-point quiz and a 30-point exam) must be completed before 11:00 pm on the following Monday (July 8th, 2019).

During Week Two, we study Unit B of James Joyce's short story "The Dead." It's a fairly long short story, and it contains many layers. Thus, it's a good idea to devote two Weeks to it.

What Happens in Week Three

Week Three begins at 8:00 am on Monday, July 8th, 2019. Work due as part of Week Three (i.e. a 20-point quiz and a 30-point exam) must be completed before 11:00 pm on the following Monday (July 15th, 2019).

During Week Three, we study William Butler Yeats's poem "Easter, 1916," written during the summer of 1916 in response to the Easter 1916 Rising, an armed rebellion in Ireland that sought to replace British colonial rule with a sovereign republic. Many critics and readers consider "Easter, 1916" to be the finest political poem ever written in the English language.

What Happens in Week Four

Week Four begins at 8:00 am on Monday, July 15th, 2019. Work due as part of Week Four (i.e. a 20-point quiz and a 30-point exam) must be completed before 11:00 pm on the following Monday (July 22nd, 2019).

During Week Four, we study W. Somerset Maugham's short story "P&O," written in 1926. While Maugham — the most successful literary author of his day — was an Englishman, he creates an Irish protagonist for this tale, almost all of which is set aboard a passenger steamer sailing from Singapore to Europe.

What Happens in Week Five

Week Five begins at 8:00 am on Monday, July 22nd, 2019. Work due as part of Week One (i.e. a 20-point quiz and a 30-point exam) must be completed before 11:00 pm on the Thursday of that Week (July 25th, 2019).

During Week Five, we study Maeve Brennan’s short story “The Servants’ Dance,” written in 1954. Born in Ireland, Brennan moved to the U.S. as a teenager and lived there for the rest of her life. The servants of the tale’s title are Irish maids (“Bridgets”) employed in an upscale community on the Hudson River, north of New York City.

Summary Calendar					
Name of Week	Week Officially Begins at 8:00 am on	Work from Week (One Quiz and One Exam) Due No Later than 11:00 pm on	Content for Week Posted on Course Folio Page No Later than 11:00 pm on	Focal Literary Text for Week	Temporal Details
Week One	Monday, June 24 th	Monday, July 1 st	Sunday, June 23 rd	James Joyce’s “The Dead” • Unit A	Written in Italy in 1907; first published in 1914
Week Two	Monday, July 1 st	Monday, July 8 th	Thursday, June 28 th	James Joyce’s “The Dead” • Unit B	Written in Italy in 1907; first published in 1914
Week Three	Monday, July 8 th	Monday, July 15 th	Thursday, July 4 th	William Butler Yeats’s “Easter, 1916”	Written, primarily in France, in 1916
Week Four	Monday, July 15 th	Monday, July 22 nd	Thursday, July 11 th	W. Somerset Maugham’s “P&O”	Written during the author’s Far Eastern travels in 1925; published in 1926
Week Five	Monday, July 22 nd	Thursday, July 25 th	Thursday, July 18 th	Maeve Brennan’s “The Servants’ Dance”	First published by Brennan’s employer, the <i>New Yorker</i> magazine, in 1954
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Who Is Your Instructor?

Your instructor is Howard J. Keeley, Ph.D. He has taught at Georgia Southern for over a dozen years. He’s a member of the Department of Literature and the director of the University’s Center for Irish Research and Teaching (C.I.R.T.) He’s the person most responsible for the University’s new overseas campus: an International Learning Hub in the town of Wexford in southeastern Ireland. (The ribbon-cutting for the facility, by the President of Ireland, is scheduled for September 5th, 2019.) A native of Ireland and a citizen of the U.S., Dr. Keeley earned a doctorate in Irish and English literature from Princeton University, where he received that institution’s top graduate-student prize: the Jacobus Fellowship for “Highest Scholarly Excellence.” Despite his significant administrative and fundraising work (he secured over \$700,000 in donations to Georgia Southern in FY 2018-2019), Dr. Keeley is a productive scholar. Already this calendar year, two academic articles by him have been accepted for publication: one by Syracuse University Press and the other by Irish Academic Press. Dr. Keeley’s *Rate My Professor* score is 4.7 out of 41 student reviews.

Interacting with Your Instructor

In an online course, such as this one, it’s important to be able to access your instructor on a regular basis. While this course is fairly straightforward (with no essays and just one quiz and one exam per week), you may nevertheless have questions and comments for Dr. Keeley. We need to have a communications pathway.

As a general rule, Dr. Keeley will be “live” on email every day, Monday through Saturday (never on Sunday), between 9:00 am-10:00 am and again between 8:00 pm-9:00 pm. Some days, he will have other commitments during those hours, but he’ll make up the email-centered time should that happen. If your email is distinctly individual in nature, Dr. Keeley will respond to you directly via an exclusive email message. If its content is of relevance to the entire course, he’ll respond via his Daily Message to All Students, which is available at irishgeorgia.com/daily (the password is: lithum). Please be aware that the response time in any and all cases may be up to 48 hours, and that Sunday should not be counted when considering the response time.

For this course: When communicating with Dr. Keeley, please use **either** the email feature on the Folio interface **or** the following email:

irish@georgiasouthern.edu

Late Work

Please Note:

Late work is late work and will receive a grade of zero.

Students with Special Needs

Georgia Southern University and Dr. Keeley are committed to equal opportunity in access to education. If you have special needs in that regard, please contact Dr. Keeley via email: irish@georgiasouthern.edu. An additional resource is the [Student Accessibility Resource Center](#).

Help with I.T. (Information Technology)

Georgia Southern University’s I.T. infrastructure is superb, so much so that the institution has successfully supported hundreds of online courses. That said, we need to be aware that outages and other issues can happen. Should there be a network problem, your instructor will be made aware of it and won’t penalize you. Do not panic; be patient; and trust that your instructor will show understanding and reasonableness. If you need help with I.T., it’s unlikely that your instructor will be able to assist. He’s a smart dude, but he doesn’t have advanced I.T. competency. You can contact the [Office of I.T. Services](#) (“My Tech Support”) by email and phone.

Reiteration

As stated above, you need to make a habit of checking in with Dr. Keeley’s consolidated responses to students by visiting his Daily Message to All Students. The newest message always appears at the top of the page. The password (all lower-case) is: lithum. Again, the address is:

irishgeorgia.com/daily

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