IS211 Performing Ireland 2

Tunes and Texts: Constructing identity in Irish music and dance

Music and dance in Ireland are frequently used as architectural frameworks of identity building. Drawing on criticism, cultural history and performance studies, this course will focus on key performers, performances and criticism of Irish music and dance performance from the late nineteenth century to the new millennium as a means of examining constructions of Irish identity.

Requirements:

- Attendance at class is required
- Class research assignment (10%)
  Two students will research and present primary contextual evidence each week for the topic under discussion.
- Oral reading response and 250 word written reading response (2 x 10%)
- 2,000 word essay due 4pm, Wednesday, 30 November 2011 (70%)

Week 1  Music, Dance, Ireland and Identity

Readings


Week 2  Gendered musicking: Masculinities and ‘Celtic’ women

Listening http://www.joeheaney.org/default.asp?contentID=1

Readings


Lillis Ó Laoire and Sean Williams, ‘Irish masculinities, the Irish tenor and the sean-nós singer’, and ‘Fighting words, fighting music, the performative male’ in Bright Star of the West: Joe Heaney, Irish Song Man, Oxford University Press (2011), 139-176.

Week 3  ‘Beautiful Day’: U2 and global Ireland

Listening http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3V8nu6e8eFY
Readings


Week 4

‘Kathleen Mavourneen’: Inventing the popular in Irish music

Listening

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUEAhhMtd8k

Readings

John Storey, ‘Popular culture as folk culture’ and ‘Popular culture as mass culture’ in Inventing Popular Culture, Blackwell Publishing (2003), 1-30.


Additional


Week 5

‘The Hucklebuck’: Jiving to the Showbands

Film

The One-Nighters

Listening

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0eBMwzMllol&feature=related

Readings


Additional readings


Week 6

‘Lisdoonvarna’: Festivalisation, culture and Ireland

Visual

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRYW55rFC24

Readings


**Web sources**
http://www.feaklefestival.ie/aboutus.html
http://www.oxegen.ie/

**Week 7**

‘The sash my father wore’: Music and marching in Northern Ireland

**Audio-visual**
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lPd3k_kl2T4

**Readings**


**Week 8**

‘What’s another year?': Pop music, the Eurovision and the nation-state

**Audio-visual**
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJYy4sQaR_s&feature=fvst

**Readings**


**Week 9**

*The Commitments*

**Film**
The Commitments

**Readings**

**Additional Readings**


**Week 10**

‘Seven Drunken Nights’: Folk revival and counter culture

*Listening*

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CWIIoSf4nw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5CWIIoSf4nw)

*Readings*


**Week 11**

*The Companion and the Web*

*Reading*

Fintan Vallely (ed.), *The Companion to Irish Traditional Music*, CUP (1999), extracts to be assigned.


*Web-sources*

[http://www.itma.ie/](http://www.itma.ie/)

[http://comhaltas.ie/](http://comhaltas.ie/)

[http://www.pipers.ie/](http://www.pipers.ie/)

**Week 12**

*Final class*

*Please note readings may change during the semester.*